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*Death*

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FRONTISPIECE



JEMIMA & ROSINA



J E M I M A.

A NOVEL.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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BY THE AUTHOR OF  
ZORIADA, OR VILLAGE ANNALS, &c.

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VOL. I.

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L O N D O N:  
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM LANE,  
AT THE  
Minerva-Press,  
LEADENHALL-STREET.

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1946 3. 25. 1948



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# J E M I M A.

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## CHAPTER I.

### AN UNEXPECTED VISIT.

AS I live, said Major Jones's house-keeper, hastily throwing open his chamber door, here is Miss Jemima come to see you.

JEMIMA! ah the truant, cried the Major, his eyes sparkling with joy, she shall not approach me; I will not behold her.— Wherefore dearest child, for the young Lady was instantly in his arms, wherefore do I now embrace you; why will you, by *such* repeated acts of *disobedience*, incur my dis-

VOL I.

B

pleasure?

pleasure? I really fear I shall never bring myself to forgive you.

FEAR it not my dear Sir, replied Jemima; deign for once to follow my example, and fear it not; displeasure so kindly expressed cannot long be unappeasable.

WELLON's looks, said he, are as confident as your words, but you shall both of you find yourselves mistaken; I will not be trick'd even into happiness: so to school again my young Madam.—With that face! Sir, replied the young Lady, do you hope to drive me from you with that face? besides, I have certain incidents to communicate that will sanctify my conduct. To-morrow morning you shall hear all: to-night I only ask to be told you forgive me, and are as much better (than I apprehended) as you appear to be.

O GOOD Sir, said Mrs. Wellon, this must have weight with you; you will not send  
Miss

Miss Jemima away unheard if you have one grain of curiosity in your whole composition.

Pshaw, the woman's a fool, said the Major, and the girl an arch fly knave. Is she not always flying here if I am the least indisposed, and who is so busy to tell her I cannot devise, unless you are weak enough to do it. I should therefore be well set to work were I to listen to either of you.

JEMIMA threw off her riding hat, and drawing a chair close to the Major's couch, without further ceremony begged he would say how he found himself.

My gout is fled, replied he; what can it mean? I have not a pain remaining. Surely some angel of health, under that well-beloved form of thine, has vouchsafed to visit me, and of course I have been chiding where my most grateful acknowledgments were due. So send in the tea, Wellon: Je-

mima makes an excellent dish of tea; nor will I, when she leaves school, ever receive that soft beverage from other hands than hers.

I HAVE left school already, said the young Lady; without either your knowledge or permission, finally left it. But, my dear Sir, condescend to hear the proficiency I have made in the elegant and the useful branches of education, together with my motives for thus presuming upon your indulgence, before you condemn me.

You have left school, cried the astonished Major, without previous intimation of your design or wishes! what am I to think of so unbecoming a step?—This, Mrs. Wellon, is your amiable, your timid, your fine feeling, Miss Jemima.

ARE you not ill, Sir, and no relation near you? And what then, my sage and tender



der Madam? you are not come to live with me, replied the Major, are you?

To live and die, said the young Lady, if my life is not prolonged far, far beyond the present period. — Under this roof dwell Peace, and Truth, and Goodness. In the world alas, Sir! in the world, what Danger, what Destruction!

THE Major started. — At your age, replied he, this remark, however just, is very extraordinary! What danger can the child of my tenderest affection have known? What destruction can she have had cause to apprehend? If sweetness and innocence, such as she possesses, could not preserve her from both the one and the other, then indeed is the world much more base and perfidious than I ever yet conceived it to be.

I HAVE had my alarms, replied Jemima, but they are over; alarms I can never  
B 3 forget,



forget; or shall think myself perfectly free from, except when under your immediate protection.—The Major was lost in thought. Disturb not your worthy mind, resumed she, on this occasion; am I not now with my father, his house my asylum, his kindness my happiness.

THE tea was brought in, and Mrs. Welton waited unbidden. She perceived the countenance of her master was much ruffled in her short absence, and that Miss Jemima looked pale; and being naturally of a temper to love information, super-added to the heart felt interest she took in their safety and welfare, was on tenters to know what had happened.

THE young Lady, who wished to tell the story but once, and (that her father might not be robbed of his repose) to tell it the ensuing morning, in order to give a cheerful turn to her chat, said, but Sir, you do not  
seem

seem to remember I was to lay my school acquirements before you.

SPEAK on, said the Major; you do what you please with my feelings, gay or grave, they take their tone from you; beware, however, of making an ill use of your power.

JEMIMA smiled, and proceeded to deal out a catalogue of her social qualifications, as she called them; for I can read to you Sir, said she, whatever author you may choose, in French or English, and also perform the office of your secretary in each of those languages; I can play to you on the harpsichord, the organ, and the harp, and your musical taste shall be the regulator of mine; I can head your table, under your encouraging eye, with a very tolerable grace; and my talent for tea-making you have recently commended:—Need a woman do more?

BRAVO, cried the Major, instantly.

YET Sir, I, your happy Jemima, can do more, much more, for, that my company might supply any incidental deficiency of amusement to you, I have enabled myself to challenge you at piquet, Polish draughts, and at backgammon.

BRAVISSIMO, cried the Major, holding out both his hands to bid her welcome to Davison-Hall, what a treasure have you brought me!—and prepare yourself to begin your backgammon attack this very evening; for, strange to tell, my love, added he, (sighing deeply) Levet has forsaken me.

AND to his shameful desertion of you, you are indebted, replied she, to my affectionate arrival; I could not exist at a distance when I knew you was alone.

WONDERFUL this, said the Major! you are all mystery, Jemima. I doubted not indeed but your motive for coming so unexpectedly

expectedly was a justifiable, but did not apprehend it was a benevolent one. Your reception, therefore, how ill-suited to your high deserts!

I GRANT you Sir, said the young Lady, you took much pains to look angry; but your heart not seconding your endeavours, I felt you kind.

THE tea apparatus removed, the gammon tables were introduced; and the Major was so delighted with this obvious, this marked instance of attention to him, in his favourite amusement, that he forgot all his fears and all his cares, and went to bed one of the happiest men in the whole kingdom.

## CHAPTER II.

## AN INTERESTING INQUIRY.

NOT so the young Lady; for, on the good Mrs Wellon's attending her to her apartment, she burst into tears, and could only motion to her with her hand to shut the door.

How, Mrs. Wellon, cried she, (so soon as she recovered the power of articulation) has my father born Levet's ingratitude? did it not plant daggers in his bosom? and was not his late most alarming and severe fit of the gout occasioned thereby?—Tell me all, for I have much to ask, and you, I trust, have much to answer me.

THE magnitude of his offence, replied Mrs. Wellon, caused my master's surprise to exceed his concern. The gout nevertheless  
came

came, and I actually trembled for his life. He is now safe; then why, Miss Jemima, should not you be satisfied?

How long, demanded the young Lady, with inexpressible emotion, after a short pause, how long have you, Mrs. Wellon, known Major Jones?

FIVE and twenty years, replied she.

INTIMATELY? said the Lady, his connections, his conduct, his principles?

WHAT questions are these! returned Mrs. Wellon; yes, Miss Jemima, I knew him before his marriage with his first Lady; is that a satisfactory distance?

BEYOND my best hopes, cried Jemima; so good Mrs Wellon, late so ever as it may be, sit down, I conjure you, and relate to me every circumstance you can recollect from Davison's birth to my earliest infancy; and

B 6

you



you will not only highly oblige me, you will relieve my heart from suffering.

MRS. WELLON was all consternation, but perceiving it was not the moment for inquiry, she began without delay to comply with the strict letter of the young Lady's request.

THE first time I ever saw Major Jones, said she, was after a review. He came to my lodgings to ask the surgeon's opinion of my husband, who had been thrown from his horse that very morning, and was reported to be dangerously hurt. His collar bone was indeed broken, but he made light of it, and assured me he should soon be well.

THE Major advanced to the bed side, and sitting down, with that sweet air of old acquaintance he always wears on a self introduction to strangers, you are so highly spoken of Wellon, said he, that I am come to make my apology for having so long overlooked your merit.

My



My Husband looked up with grateful delight, for the Major's character was known to every one, infomuch, that happy was he who obtained his confideration or countenance.

It is true faid he, finding my Husband replied not, (weighed in the goldsmith's fcales) I have the advantage of you, behold me then the agent, the fteward of providence; and if this purfe, laying a heavy one, Mifs Jemima, upon the table, fmooths your pillow in a fingle inftance, remember I am the gainer, for I know not another means of difpofing of it to purchafe me fo much happinefs.

WELLON would have poured out his thanks; for the truth was, Mifs Jemima, we were but flenderly provided for, he doing the duty of Quartermafter without other reward than the promife of fucceffion in cafe of the fick gentleman's death; when the Major, putting his hand kindly upon my husband's,

band's to prevent his speaking, exclaimed, you are in a fever, and I will immediately send my own physician to you.

THE physician arrived, and every thing was done that could be done to save him; his fever increased, and the Major's humanity and generosity were redoubled; the dye was however cast, and my poor Wellon in a short time was no more. From that hour to this, continued Mrs. Wellon, I have derived every blessing of my existence from that worthy patron's bounty. He sent me, so soon as the last melancholy offices were performed, to Davison-Hall in the character of house-keeper, and for seven ensuing months I heard of him alone in benefits; for, by his no less singular than unhopd for exertions, many debts were recovered, which I had deemed lost; and bestowing the post of Quartermaster upon a young man in the corps, on condition of his allowing me twenty pounds a year for life, the annuity and many other valuable articles were  
mine,

mine, within the first twelve months of my widowhood.

THUS far of myself, Miss *Jemima*, as a preface, and perhaps a desirable preface to the information you wish to obtain, which begins as follows:

THE father of Mr. Davison had been brought up at the same school with the Major, and was endeared to his friendship by an agreeable turn of temper and an excellent heart. They entered the army nearly about the same time, but their chances for promotion were as dissimilar as patronage and unsupported merit could render them.

THE Major, all liberality, pressed his friend to accept of a vacancy he would have purchased for him in the regiment to which he belonged, but the young gentleman's spirit was too high, insomuch, that he preferred going abroad independent in a marching regiment, to staying at home under

der the most alluring auspices of obligation. His wife, for he was married before he left England, accompanied him; and it was months before my Master recovered the sorrow of their departure.

FOR five years, Miss Jemima, they had not seen each other; when, who should drive up the avenue in a post chaise, but Mr. and Mrs. Bateman, with the little Davison blooming as a cherub in their hand.

THE Major's joy would have been too much for him, unalloyed by the visible declining state of his beloved friend's health, in consequence, as it proved, of a wound received by him when on a reconnoitering party; and which had obtained him permission to visit his native country. Master Davison, then in leading strings (for he was born at Carolina) was consigned to my care, and remained at the Hall whilst my master attended Mr. Bateman to every place of promise for the re-establishment of his health;

health; holding danger, fatigue, expence, as nothing in comparison with that most interesting object.

JEMIMA's tears began again to flow, she lifted her eyes to heaven, but whether in thankfulness or despair Mrs. Wellon was unable to discover before she was intreated to go on with her history.

My master one morning, resumed Mrs. Wellon, by knocking and ringing no less suddenly than early at the court-yard gate, threw me into an agitation and anxiety that impelled me to be one of the first to open it.

WELLON up! said he cheerfully, I am glad of it; (but observing my appearance) though I believe, added he, I am indebted for your personal reception of me at so unreasonable an hour, to the kind alarm my impatient demand of admission occasioned you.

At

AH Sir! cried I, your voice is the voice of peace; but your countenance — has not your countenance strong lines of sorrow?

BATEMAN is dead, replied he; how fares his boy? but I recollect you have the superintendence of him, and am therefore certain!

ALAS Sir! said I, if the tenderest care could avert disease or lengthen life, should either poor Mrs. Bateman or myself have been now widows.

You must, my good Wellon, said he, with a quickness that plainly told how difficult it was for him to preserve his composure, you must give me a few moments attentive hearing.

He sat down, and insisted on my doing the same, without the smallest regard to the strange figure I had made of myself, by my hasty manner of putting on my clothes; but  
though



though his heart and soul were too intensely wounded for him to perceive either the cause or effect of my reluctant compliance, I am ashamed to tell you, Miss *Jemima*, how reluctantly I seated myself before him, from the force of custom, or female vanity (I will not take upon me to say which) notwithstanding the melancholy tidings I was apprised he had to relate.

You was not born (said this ever kind and indulgent master) or educated, I well know, with the prospect of serving, but I will render your service light if you can reconcile yourself to the name. I read your sensible reply, continued he, without permitting me to speak, I read it in your face, and little matters it indeed by what name worthy and laudible industry is distinguished. But, my good *Wellon*, the question between us is now become, not whether you can stoop to the commands of a master, but whether you can submit to receive a mistress. I stared, Miss *Jemima*, with all the eyes I had, and he, without



without appearing to note my astonishment, proceeded.

THE wife of my deceased Bateman had my best esteem, this her own excellence obtained from me; but the widow of the man I loved equal to my existence is intitled to all the softening the soothing accommodations, under her present circumstances, I am able to procure for her. — Her fortune is small, her sensibility acute; — her — her — would to heaven, therefore, I could essentially obviate her consequential inconveniences. There is, however, but one offer I can with propriety make her, or she with decorum accept: the use of my house, the nursery of her infant son; until time has so far healed the strokes of misfortune, that she can determine how to dispose of herself.

I AM come therefore, continued the Major, all these miles for the purpose of engaging your good offices for this unfortunate Lady. The occupation of my house, I  
with

with pleasure feel will include all the need-  
ful for the time being. Spare not then I  
beseech you, as you tender my satisfaction  
and approbation, my purse: your diligence,  
whatever you can devise, that will be grate-  
ful and agreeable to her: but, above the rest,  
ever more preserve a delicacy of manner,  
that may prevent her discovering she is such  
an abundant object of our united attention.  
You have your full commission now before  
you; except that, with the little Davison  
along with you, I must beg that a carriage  
may be dispatched to convey her to the  
Hall, where, unless she bids, you will not  
again behold me, while she condescends to  
make it her place of residence.

IN a word, Miss Jemima, I thought, said  
Mrs. Wellon, I could perceive the Major's  
friendship for the living was at least as  
heart-felt as his friendship for the dead, and  
had an immediate, though confused, pre-  
sentiment of future events.

My

My master took only a dish of chocolate, and set off for his regiment; but did not, it proved, make any progress in his journey until he saw Master Davison and I were under way; yet unknowing as I was of his conduct in that point, my respect for his orders were such, that every possible means had been used to expedite our departure; the coachman was unluckily gone to the next town, and Master Davison in so sweet a sleep, that however retarded for near an hour by his absence, I could not, on the child's account, be dissatisfied.

Mrs. BATEMAN had been prepared by letter to expect us, and I soon found she was a deep and sincere mourner for her husband; nevertheless, the comforter I brought her was irresistible; and you, Miss Jemima, who know the softness of his temper, and the winningness of his address, will easily conceive how his infant attempts must steal upon, must harmonise her heart.

WE returned safe to Davison-Hall, and I was her constant companion; for eighteen months we never saw the Major; he wrote to me regularly once a week, and received my faithful report of the family welfare; but, poor Gentleman, his love was of that kind which overawes its possessor, besides his reverence for the memory of his lost friend, and fearful of a refusal—he could so ill bear, he lived upon hope, though without probability from his distant situation, of some happy moment offering for a declaration. Wonderful this; but true, Miss Jemima, as wonderful; that all the recommendations he could boast, rather restrained him from, than encouraged him to act according to the dictates of his wishes.

ACCIDENT however at length did the so much desired business. Your father, Miss Jemima, and mother were old acquaintances from their youth up of Mrs. Bateman.

WITH

WITH great talents and greater virtues, your father had, it seems, vainly sought to rise in the Church: one of his parishioners, therefore, at a small rectory, whose brother belonged to the Major's regiment, happening to hear the chaplainship thereof was likely to be vacant, advised him to push all his interest to obtain it; and, amongst the rest, Mrs. Bateman was applied to by this kind young lady in favour of her well-known and highly esteemed friends, for her intercession with the Major.

MRS. BATEMAN would have given worlds the application to her had been spared. — Your father had indeed her best wishes for success, but to trespass on the Major's generosity of temper, was what her delicacy forbade. A second letter of intreaty arrived, when the affair, by dint of observation, coming to my knowledge, sensible as I was how much I should please my master, I contrived to get them both into my possession, and  
inclosed

inclosed them with all the particulars I could collect for his information.

NEVER was diligence and attention so abundantly extolled or so liberally rewarded; the kneeling world could not have been more successful than this intimation of Mrs. Bateman's wishes; your father, Miss Jemima, was not only appointed to the chaplainship, but, together with your mother and yourself (then an infant in arms) were immediately sent by Major Jones to Davison-Hall to pay their thanks, and spend a few weeks with their patroness.

BLESSED, blessed intelligence, cried Jemima; then I also was born before the Major was acquainted with my mother.

WHAT you can mean, said Mrs. Wellon, you best know, by your strange questions, and strange comments on my answers.

C

PROCEED



PROCEED, said Jemima, you shall not be uninformed at a proper opportunity.

MRS. BATEMAN was, said Mrs. Wellon, most agreeably surpris'd by this incident, but could not imagine, she repeatedly affirmed, how the Major came to the knowledge of her friendship for Mr. and Mrs. Davenson, your father's name, Miss Jemima; the visit was however enjoyed by all parties, my master's health toasted twice every day, with an applicable sentiment; and, to conclude the whole, you became Master Davison's beloved companion in the nursery. I need not add that Davison-Hall was constituted the happy home of both the one and the other of you ever since.

At the end of a month, your father took his leave to assume his office of chaplainship, and I failed not to make the Major acquainted with every tittle that pass'd; but the ladies remained inseparable, until at length the Major hoping, such a thing might  
be



be fairly mentioned, wrote out his heart's desire to your mother, intreating she would exert her utmost influence with her amiable friend in his service.

MRS. DAVENPORT communicated the contents of this letter to me, and professed her surprise that an advocate should then be wanting in such a cause; nor did I scruple to own how much I marvelled at the nice and painful delay my master had imposed upon himself, and we were both of us beyond measure anxious to hear Mrs. Bateman's determination.

MRS. BATEMAN soon relieved our suspense; she knew the value of the offer, and, like a woman of honour, scorned to trifle; after some necessary, though short preparations, a glorious day I called it, was therefore appointed, and your father, Miss Je-mima, bestowed the nuptial benediction upon them.

O MISS JEMIMA! how vain and wicked a thing it is for any one to presume to say, this will make me completely happy, or that will make me completely happy; for who could have foreseen that the Major, after so bright an event, was destined alone to taste the cup of affliction. Mrs. Jones' health however visibly declined; she went to Bath, to Bristol, to the South of France, without effect; her fine eyes lost their lustre, her beautiful complexion was destroyed, and she departed this life before the expiration of the second year of her second marriage, and left my master in a state of indescribable disconsolation.

YOUR father and mother never, for four long months, quitted him; and such was their tenderness and attention, that, if they had been indebted to him for their existence as well as their provision, he must have become the highly obliged person; in a word, I verily doubted he could survive.

He

HE would talk of nothing but his wife's graces, his wife's excellencies, and a thousand times protested she was the very woman an Epitaph of Mr. Pope's characterised, by saying,

Underneath this stone doth lie,  
As much virtue as could die;  
Which, when alive, did vigour give,  
To as much beauty as could live.

Nor was there indeed a means of drawing him out of his melancholy reveries, but by the mention of some recollected instance of her perfection of temper, form, or conduct.

My master's uncle, Mr. Richard Jones, dying at this period, he bid adieu to the army, inclosing his commission, as a deserved tribute, he said, to the bravest and best esteemed officer in the whole corps, though then a subaltern; and retained your father in his house at a handsome salary, in the double capacity of domestic chaplain, and tutor to Master Davison, for by his uncle's death his wealth was immense; and such

kind regard did he pay to that young gentleman's future provision, that he made him independent, even of himself, at the age of twenty one.

Two more years passed away, and the Major was evidently getting the better of at least the severity of his grief, when your worthy father, Miss jemima, whose pious prejudices would not permit him to approve of inoculation, took the small pox, a most envenomed sort, which, by its fatality plunged the whole family again into unavailing lamentation.

MRS. DAVENPORT, your mother, fearless of her own safety, was unremitting in her care of him, until the disease compelled her to become a patient also; her bed was however brought into the same apartment, and her anxiety and despair about her husband's life, so abundantly endangered her own, that she was both blind and delirious for some days beyond his peaceful death and solemn

solemn interment in the same vault with Mr. and Mrs. Bateman, and where the Major ardently desired his remains should be deposited, whenever called upon to join them in eternity.

JEMIMA wept, but insisted upon it Mrs. Wellon should not spare her feelings; my heart, said she, is gratified, though nature is pained; I never before heard a single circumstance of my unfortunate, my suffering, my nearest relatives, either living or dead; the Major in compassion concealed them all from my knowledge, no wonder therefore that I cannot withhold a few filial tears; but proceed.

My master, resumed Mrs. Wellon, was scarcely a remove from a madman; the next that took the infection was yourself, and, for the general comfort, light was the attack and transient your indisposition; Master Davison was the only happy person, his infant age protecting his mind from distress,

trefs, and his having had the distemper in America, securing his health on this occasion.

MRS. DAVENPORT lost not her life; but her face, which the Major had been heard to say was only inferior to her friend Mrs. Jones', was totally changed, nor could her spirits ever be revived; nevertheless, the Major loved her—loved her, as he often told me, before such a thought entered her head, for her conjugal feeling and affection, so lively, so exemplary, he said, and manifested even at the hazard of all that was dear and valuable, her health, her beauty, and her existence, and resolved to fill up the measure of his liberal mindedness by devoting himself and fortune to the advancement of her future happiness.

For your sake, Miss Jemima, and to give you a claim upon the Major's heart beyond the common ties of acquaintance, &c. was the only prevailing argument my  
master



master hit upon: her unaspiring mind was uninterested by his pecuniary advantages, and her affections buried in the grave of her husband.

HER maternal motives lessened not the value of her consent in the Major's estimation, who led her to Church, and promised himself some succeeding days of tolerable felicity. But this promise, like his union with Mrs. Bateman, proved falacious; a sore throat carried your mother off within five months after her marriage, and Master Davison, then five years old, and you, Miss Jemima, barely three, have been all the world to him of treasure and consolation to this day.

AND on the ruins, as it might be called, continued Mrs. Wellon, (Jemima forbearing to speak lest she should interrupt the conclusion of her story) of your family was Mr. Levet's good fortune built; for Mr. Levet was a young boy your father was

C 5                      accustomed

accustomed to take notice of long before he pronounced him, in the hearing of Major Jones, a very promising genius, with an inclination for the church.

THIS was enough to obtain him my master's support; he sent him accordingly to the university, where he was pursuing his studies at his noble patron's expence, when, on the death of his first and firm friend, your father, he was called upon to become his successor.

HIS youth, however, for he was not quite nineteen, induced the Major to wait two years for him, at the end of which he was invested with what had been made his right; took his deacon and other orders duly at the hands of the proper bishop, as he became qualified so to do; and had he been only an honest man, there could not have been a happier man in his majesty's dominions.

I HAVE

I HAVE only to add, said Mrs. Wellon, that a somewhat of a jarring upon my master's feelings, I could never comprehend, was the leading step to your being sent to school, and Master Davison to the university, and what made it very remarkable was, that it took place of the most charming flow of spirits ever enjoyed by him since the loss of his first lady. As things have since turned out, I am, however, much of opinion, it was some stroke of generalship in the priest to have you and your supposed brother separated; for, that the Major might solace himself with every exertion of your infant arts for his amusement, and possess himself of your entire affections, you were brought up from the immediate era of your mother's death, as brother and sister, and the absolute offspring of your father-in-law. The Major, Miss Jemima, in my hearing, having declared to Levet that he wished you no longer to consider each other in that near point of relationship; for, said he, to me afterwards, though I will never attempt

to control their inclinations, I will save them from looking back with regret to the innocent deception that now prevents their thinking of each other; let them once be free, Wellon, to chuse, and we shall soon see the genuine bent of their hearts.

JEMIMA's face was instantly overspread with the deepest scarlet, and Mrs. Wellon was not without her conclusions, but resumed. What I have related passed in the morning, and it was settled that your birth should be revealed to you; instead of which, so rapid and successful were Levet's manœuvres, that I received orders before breakfast the next day not to breathe a word to either you or Master Davison of the matter; and it was immediately proposed to you, to go to Mrs. Hillman's school, and to the young gentleman to visit the university.

BUT you seem profoundly thoughtful, Miss Jemima, said Mrs. Wellon; so thoughtful

ful that I repent telling you what I have done; besides, to my misfortune now it is too late, I recollect that I have for the first time in my life disobeyed my master's commands. You do not answer me, you perceive not, I verily fear, that I am in the room with you. What! what, my dear young Lady, can all this mean?

JEMIMA was indeed so lost in meditation, as to be guilty of the whole charge Mrs. Wellon brought against her, but starting up, Mrs. Wellon, said she, I have great obligations to you, nor will I longer detain you from your repose; you have cleared up every point to my entire satisfaction, and to-morrow you shall receive the history of my (now thank heaven passed) distress and apprehensions.

MRS. WELLON wished the young Lady a good night, but such was her honest and friendly curiosity, that she would have preferred hearing what Miss Jemima had to relate,

relate, to sleep, notwithstanding the night was far advanced.

OF all the monsters of ingratitude and iniquity, surely, said Mimma, Levet is the greatest; and so saying, she endeavoured to compose herself to rest.



## CHAPTER III.

## AN INTERESTING TALE.

THE first thing the Major recollected in the morning, was his happiness in having Jemima for a companion; the second, that she had promised to unfold a tale, which, by her insinuations, was full of injustice and alarm. To the breakfast table he therefore summoned her, and bade her begin to relate what he was impatient to hear, without either preface or introduction; those fore-runners of evil tidings only serving, he said, to damp the fortitude and irritate the sensibility of the auditors. Wellon attended as usual, her expectation on tiptoe, for she loved a good story at her heart, however replete with danger or distress, though her humanity always prompted her to wish both the one and the other happily over before the account thereof reached her ear.

It

IT is now, said Jemima, an year and an half since Mr. Levet (the Major was petrified at the mention of his name) on one of my school recesses, thought proper to profess his admiration of me. I stared at his freedom, and checked it with such severity, that I hoped it was all at an end.

To Davison, as well as to yourself, Sir, I would gladly have communicated the matter, but apprehending my vanity alone might suggest a perseverance in an attachment my displeasure had wholly subdued, I determined, and by the change in your countenance my dear Sir, am convinced wisely determined, to forget the affair.

AND so effectually did I forget it, lulled into security by his artful respect and distant attentions, that when the name of Levet was on Thursday last announced to me, concluding he came from my father, I flew down with unsuppressed joy to receive him.

MRS.

MRS. WELLON and the Major exchanged a look of astonishment and dismay, and the young Lady proceeded.

ON entering the parlour into which he had been shewn, I was, however, much chagrined to hear he had no letter for me.

YOU are, Miss Jemima, said he, bowing low, (as I am since certain to cover his own confusion) you are to wait upon Major Jones immediately; the business is important, and I have brought a chaise for your conveyance.

AND not one line, Mr. Levet; not one paternal line?

COULD it be necessary, replied he; do I not stand sufficiently high in esteem at Davison-Hall to have my commission much rather complied with than doubted!

STILL Sir, said I, with an emotion that  
visibly

visibly disconcerted him, still your not presenting me with a kind letter surprises me; for it was always my father's custom to give me his beloved commands in writing.

YOU refuse me then, Madam, said he, the consequence of escorting you to the Major! be it so; I will instantly attend him, and proclaim the disgrace of my embassy.

I BEGAN to fear I had acted wrong, and therefore, with all the cheerfulness I could assume, replied, I hesitated only, Sir, I did not absolutely decline going.

HE cleared up at these words, and was very near taking hold of my hand; but drawing back as if he had stumbled, said, your condescension, Madam, has got the better of my intended reserve, and I will own to you, your father was not capable, by a sudden and violent attack of the gout, to write to you, and thence alone your disappointment.

THIS

THIS information had the desired effect on my feelings; my self-concern gave place to filial anxiety, and I became as forward to set off as himself: yet again, happily for me, his looks displeased me. — Could his heart, had it been in the right place, have been so much at ease, as his countenance bespoke it to be, when his friend, his benefactor, was in torture!

HAD Mrs. Wellon, thought I during a silence which insensibly took place, been sent for me upon this occasion, the voice of truth alone would have reached my ear; but Mr. Levet could not, and therefore should not by me be implicitly confided in.

ANOTHER change marked his feelings; disappointment and impatience by turns was visible. I will only, said I, bid adieu to my companions, Mr. Levet, and will then go with you.

THE head teacher at Mrs. Hillman's school, continued Jemima, is a most sensible and amiable young woman, and to her I had imparted Levet's boldness, and received in return a thousand cautions to be upon my guard. A few words were sufficient to give her a full comprehension of what I wished to do; and it was settled by her that a man she could rely upon should on horseback follow the chaise in the least suspicious manner, reconnoitre our movements, and, if necessary, protect me from deceit or outrage.

It was instinct, it was inspiration, cried the Major; and you must not, my sweet child, let me forget her claims upon us in return for such an high service.

HAD Levet, resumed Jemima, never attempted to make love to me, he had surely upon this occasion carried me wheresoever he pleased; but I could not forget or forgive his daring, so far as to meet him tête à tête



tête upon friendly terms, which was the sole basis of my apprehensions as well as of my security.

THIS important matter being clearly understood by us, so soon as we conceived a sufficient time had elapsed for the man to be in readiness, I joined Mr. Levet in the parlour, who conducted me from thence with an air, I thought, of self-congratulation to the chaise, and away we drove together.

THE Major groaned, Mrs. Wellon wiped her eyes, and the young Lady proceeded.

WE had not got above a hundred yards from the door, before I felt I knew not what of alarm. I did not like his cast of features, I did not like his voice, and he appeared beyond measure to constrain himself in the respect he paid me; it was not to be endured, so putting my head out of the

the window of the carriage, under pretence of taking a last view of the spot I had quitted, I had the relief to perceive the man on horseback was behind us, and sat down by the wretch with unimaginable composure.

AFTER a silence I neither wished nor attempted to interrupt, having rattled down a lane which removed us, I suppose he flattered himself from every possibility of assistance, he very abruptly turned to me and asked when I had heard from Master Davison? I replied, the preceding morning. Will you, Madam, favour me with a sight of his letter? I proudly answered, No. — His eyes seemed to flash fire; and wherefore should you refuse, said he, if unconscious of wrong? I disdained to answer him. — Poor deluded lovely creature he called me, has then that wicked man opened his designs upon your knowledge? I contemptuously turned my head away from him. — You are nevertheless brother and sister, said he, though the Major's iniquitous avarice and ambition prompts him

him to wish to sink the relationship in a marriage between you, between his own actual son and daughter, that his undivided fortune may be your's.

DARING insinuation, exclaimed I, your, and my benefactor, Sir, has too upright a soul to deserve the most distant reflection; on your own head therefore be the blame in this instance.

WHEREVER the blame may fall, replied he unmoved, the punishment and the disreputation will be all your own. Here me then, Madam, for I will this once (forcibly seizing both my hands) compel you to hear me; my voice is your destiny which heaven ordains I should thunder in your ears; there is no safety for you but in flying contagion; your father is a hardened, your brother an enamoured villain; fly them therefore, and you fly perdition; it is your only alternative.

I THOUGHT

I THOUGHT I should have swooned! and whither, said I, a little recovering myself, (for my whole soul revolted at the idea of crediting a word he uttered) admitting what you tell me to be true, O whether am I to fly for safety? I am, to your certain knowledge, dependent for even my daily bread upon Major Jones' bounty; was there guilt nevertheless in the connexion, I would not hesitate to renounce it; the sacrifice of my earthly hopes of happiness should unrepiningly be made; but surely justice, self-preservation, gratitude for past unnumbered kindnesses, all, all require I should be well informed of these iniquitous facts, as you very properly style them, before I suffer them to operate upon my conduct.

Is this your love of virtue, Madam, returned he, your purity of sentiment, to balance, though but for a moment, whether you shall fly with your deliverer, or join hands with infamy, with incest! Davison  
Jones,

Jones, the insinuating, the resistless Davison Jones, Madam, whatever you may have heard to the contrary, is your own brother.

I NEVER heard a doubt of it, replied I, until from your lips; no one has breathed a disavowal of our consanguinity in my presence; can you then expect me to make a hasty transfer of my confidence? what years, Sir, must I know you, before the measure of your friendly offices can equal what I have received from Major Jones, and how long must you talk to me, before you can have told me half the kind things Mr. Davison has said to me? what, therefore, am I to judge from a foul, and at present, unascertained report, or the abundant, the manifold experience I have had of unabating goodness, and unremitting affection.

HE let go my hands, but seizing them again the next moment, your mother, Miss Jemima, said he —

Is, cried I, a Saint in heaven, and worse than sacrilege shall I deem any asperision on her spotless memory.

MAJOR JONES notwithstanding, returned he tauntingly, found means to melt down her super-refined principles, and be assured she was all to him her fair friend, Mrs. Bateman, had been before her.

SACRED spirits, cried I, without knowing the nature of what I uttered beyond the heart-felt invocation, sacred spirits of two most amiable and highly injured women. O! if it be possible by some miracle, however destructive to my personal safety, let your innocence be manifested.

THE age for miracles, said he, in the accent of cool irony, is my — my sweet girl, past, except the miracle of subduing your infidelity respecting the facts I have related, for of these deeds of turpitude and  
darkness,



darkness, you can and shall receive indubitable testimony.

I WILL not however, returned I, receive it from you, for to what purpose, Sir, should I from you receive it, since Mr. Levet is the last man on earth to whom I would owe an obligation; need I then tell you in other words, that was I never to behold Davison-Hall more, I would not accept of any asylum you could offer me.

INSULTING he called me, kissing my hands at the same time in despite of all my endeavours to prevent him; but I suppose, added he, you have been informed, in the language of Shakespear, what a deal of scorn can become that lip, and thence pour it so implacably on my head; we shall, however, soon arrive at a place of explanation, and of course, reconciliation.

WHERE then are we going, exclaimed I, almost breathless with terror!

To London, replied he, calmly, that city of shelter and repose.

AND what name, Sir, demanded I, do you give to this most unjustifiable conduct? The deception you have practised upon me has—

PUR me, the happy Levet, in possession of a lovely prize, said he, and I am with all convenient speed proceeding to sing *te deum*.

STILL we went on at a violent rate, and I was overwhelmed with apprehension.

THE abandoned man, said he, taking advantage of my silence, from whose wicked machinations I will guard you whilst life is lent me, is a living evidence that vice is progressive; for, when he supplanted poor Bateman in his wife's affections, he little thought himself capable of abetting incest in his own offspring; the occasion was, however,

ever, too tempting for his resistance; his intrigue with your mother, to which you owe your birth, for until the period of that intrigue she remained childless, bound his interest so equally between you and your brother Davison, that he suffered every consideration, both human and divine, to fall before his desire of your mutual enjoyment of his immense fortune.

AND can you, Sir, said I, think it possible a man so benevolent of heart, so upright and so just in every other instance, could be capable of degenerating into such —

O YES, perfectly possible, Miss *Jemima*, replied he, and I will tell you wherefore. — The refinements of gallantry have no limitations; so having very commodiously persuaded himself to believe he had a right to triumph over the virtue and the honour of his friend's wife, it was the next argument on the list, to solve his conscientious scruples respecting the union of blood, to assure him

his *natural* children might be disposed of in whatever manner the inclination of their illegal father might dictate; when, having got thus far, it was but reverting to the primitive times to find reconciling precedents, and to learn therefrom that the distinction of kindred was a mere political decree for the preservation of good order and discrimination of family claims; to subdue every doubt, or if per chance a doubt remained, the man of gallantry and the Atheist's creed touching at certain points, annihilation is the infallible opiate, and all is as it should be in his enlarged and unfettered opinion of men and things.

I TREMBLED in silence, and he proceeded.

Mrs. WELLON, your good, your valuable, your beloved Mrs. Wellon knows all this to be true, said he, as well as I do, and yet continues to live very soberly and contentedly under the roof of her worthy master; may it not therefore be very fairly concluded

cluded that she is his most obedient humble servant, no less in secret than openly in the public eye, to all intents and purposes of obedience.

POOR Wellon! said the Major, so his unhallowed lips could not forbear prophaning her name also.

HE has struck, replied Mrs. Wellon, at all, without wounding one of us; and may his arm and voice evermore prove as impotent, as where our safety and reputation are concerned.

AND from this altogether, said Miss Jemima, he protested it was that he first turned his thoughts tenderly towards me. That you was lovely, cried he, my heart confessed; that you was innocent, my heart believed; and that your danger was inevitable, every circumstance conspired to proclaim, whilst under that diabolical roof; you will please however, Madam, to recollect the manner in

which you received my kind overture; chilling, forbidding, repulsive haughtiness, was the only return I received, which plainly told me, that to serve you, I must have recourse to what you deem deception and violence, and trust to your good sense and good principles, at some future period, for grateful acknowledgments. Then endeavouring to take, what he affirmed were merely affectionate liberties, I had the success to disengage one of my captive hands, as he sneeringly phrased it, and with a quick movement letting down one of the front glasses, bid the driver stop; the fellow looked at Levet instead of me, it was apparent for orders, and being authorized by a nod, so far from observing my request, gave his horses a cruel lash, which almost, I fancied, trebled their speed.

Now — now, thought I, the moment of deliverance or destruction, is arrived; and this state of torturing undecision shall terminate; then drawing a white handkerchief  
from



from my pocket, I waved it out of the side window, the signal it was appointed the horseman should receive when my situation was rendered insupportable; but waved it much rather despairingly than with hope, until, in a second or two, I beheld him up with us.

LEVET was confounded; who is that impertinent fellow, said he, and wherefore does he regard us with such insolent observation?

HE is my guardian angel, replied I, and will not fail to deliver me from my perilous condition.

HE shall not approach the chaise with impunity, said he; the contents of this pistol, brandishing one, *in terrorem*, before my eyes, shall be lodged in his body, if he has the audacity to approach.

I SHRIEKED and fainted, and on recover-

ing my senses, had the satisfaction to find myself seated in a close wooden chair by the toll-house fire side.

You are safe, Madam, cried a young girl, gently wiping my face with her coarse clean apron; but the bad gentleman has made his escape, and my father has fought manfully in your defence, and I have wept oceans of tears over you, for we believed you was quite dead, but now all is happily over, and not a single life has been lost.

You revive me indeed, said I, accepting a glass of water from her friendly hand, but how shall I be able to proceed on my journey?

WE have a chaise waiting, replied the delighted girl, delighted at my recovered health and speech, and father says if so be you wish it, I shall attend you home.

I EMPTIED my purse on the table as an earnest,

earnest, my dear Sir I presumed to say, of your future favour, for well do I know your liberal heart, and told her I should rejoice to have her company.

SHE blushed, and cast a comparative, a conscious glance of inferiority at our dress; I bid her disregard the outside, as I always did, where the mind was amiable; and finding with pleasure that my trusty guide, or rather friend, the horseman, had reinforced himself with a young fellow well armed for my better protection, I re-entered the carriage with hope and confidence, and was soon conveyed safe to Davison-Hall. And thus, my dear Sir, said Jemima, ends my alarming adventure, an adventure that has obtained me, through the medium of Mrs. Wellon's good nature, a wonderful account of your character and conduct, and exchanged the ties of blood, for those of gratitude, of admiration, of spontaneous affection.

WELLON has then, said the Major, embracing her, told you all she knows of your birth and my marriages, she has thereby saved me the trouble of a long detail, and I will this evening set before you the leading circumstances to the events with which she has made you acquainted, and ask you in the mean time what you have done with your toll-gate friend.

SHE is in my room, said Mrs Wellon, and appears to be a kind and docile girl; how will you please, Sir, to have her disposed of?

SHE shall, cried the Major, be Jemima's waiting maid, and we will accept the goodness of her intentions for first rate abilities; you will not, Wellon, refuse her all the instruction in your power.

MRS. WELLON declared her readiness to undertake her, and the Major paid her entrance-money, as he termed the *douceur* he  
put

put almost by dint of superior strenght into her hand, she averring it was very hard he should insist upon paying her for indulging her own inclination.

ALL that, said the Major, is very well, but you must know, Mrs. Wellon, I choose now and then to prove to you, that your's is not the only liberal heart in the family.

## CHAPTER IV.

A VERY SHORT CHAPTER, BUT OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORT TO THE READER.

LORD help me, Madam, said the young girl, when made acquainted with her good fortune, who could have dreamed of my coming to such honour and glory only for doing as I would be done by! beyond which I had not an earthly thing in my power.

AND that is the very reason, replied Mrs. Wellon, that you are so amply recompenced; for the first and mightiest person could have done no more. The girl's simplicity was too great for her to be able to comprehend this doctrine; the magnitude of the service, nor the utmost exertion of the individual being with her the striking object.

THE



THE Major sent princely gifts to all those who had taken an active part in his child's deliverance, and in particular to Miss Vincent the teacher, by whose judicious and affectionate care she was so much indebted for her safety and welfare, together with a pressing invitation that she would spend the next school recess at the Hall; an honour she assured him in a note of thanks she would not fail to enjoy.

ROSINA, the name of the young cottager, proved a source of endless entertainment. Every thing she beheld was so marvellous, and so grand; she bewailed the beautiful carpets for being trod upon, and was in agonies on seeing silver pans burning over coal fires; she moreover courtesied to every creature she met, and would have been put to death rather than go down stairs before her master, as she called the steward, though he repeatedly told her she was wanted below, and that she could make three times the speed if she let him follow her; in a word, this  
most

most gentle, uncontending, and obliging girl in every other instance, was as immovable and impenetrable as a rock where she conceived her respect for her betters required she should oppose them; but as no virtue could be considered as a vice by this benevolent family, so no well-meant zeal, however troublesomely exerted, was construed into a fault. She was accordingly instructed, though unbenefited, by all around her; and so firmly persisted in the cause she would apprehend to be right, that it was at length the general opinion she would continue to be wrong all the days of her life.

AT tea in the afternoon the Major was all spirits and happiness. It is, as you observed on your arrival, Jemima, said he, a bad world, and slander, and calumny, and villainy stalk at large, and shoot out their barbed arrows at will, but we will so conduct ourselves, on a plan now floating in my brain, and of which I shall be glad to take

take Wellon's opinion, as to defeat and disappoint the intrigues of darkness, whenever, or wheresoever formed or devised.

JEMIMA, from a hint in this speech, took an early opportunity of withdrawing, and Mrs. Wellon, whose awakened curiosity would not permit her to depart from the premises until the announced intention of her master's communicativeness was fulfilled, contrived to trifle, when she ceased to be employed, until the Major, perceiving they were alone, addressed her in the following words:

MY mind tells me, my good Wellon, that the wisest step I could take, if once at a certainty respecting the children's affections, would be to marry them at once, and free them from all danger of losing each other; for I do not think there is more excellence in the human character than both of them possess; they indeed appear born to be united.

united. — Mrs. Wellon was all attention, and the Major proceeded:

LEVET has great abilities, and ever note it Wellon, when a man of abilities is not actively good he will always be actively wicked. How he can hereafter annoy us I am not capable of conjecturing, but should he turn his skill to plots and wiles, what bulwark can we so effectually set up against him as the marriage of these young persons.

UNTIL a woman is disposed of, continued the Major, there is hope, the enterprising and the vain will tell you, but matrimony all must confess to be a fence not easily broken down, as she must have a depraved soul indeed who can listen to overtures that originate in vice and must be successful with infamy.

I KNOW something of the world, Wellon, and something, I persuade myself, said the Major,

Major, of the human heart; and believe me, neither the one nor the other is half so bad as priests and hypocrites take pains to paint them.

I, REPLIED Mrs Wallon, have every reason to think favourably of life and mankind, for, except the loss of an excellent husband, my peace has been uninterrupted, and fair and amiable the characters with which I have been connected.

THE world, replied the Major, is in a great degree what individuals choose to make it. Oppression excites disgust; injustice, resentment; ill will, dishumour; pride, contempt: he, therefore, who would pass his days with tranquility and honour, must so conduct himself as to be approached with pleasure by his friends and dependents, a safe companion to the one, a benign patron to the other. How then, let me ask you, unless surrounded by monsters in a human form, how could *he* so conducting himself

himself fail to have social and delightful intercourse with persons of all descriptions.

AN Sir, said Mrs. Wellon, where the disposition is such as you are possessed of, how little difficulty then appears to be in doing what is lawful and right, and generous and excellent: but though goodness will attract goodness, and that the worthy part of the world will on all occasions act worthily, yet there will Levets spring up in every community to disgrace the human species, and to evince that neither education nor example has power to bind the evil passions, or to regulate and correct evil propensities.

How Levet came by his iniquitous inclinations and iniquitous arts, I grant you, said the Major, is a point our utmost discernment cannot decide. The advantages were all on the side of well-deserving; I know not a single inlet of malice, deception,

or



or criminality, that was open to him: what then must be concluded were the materials of which his heart was composed, to produce the enormities he has committed.

I BEG your pardon, Sir, said Mrs. Wellon, but surely we ought not to suppose the Author of all Good the author of any ill. If his heart was made up of the turpitude he has shewn in his actions, is it properly his fault, or is it not rather his misfortune, that we behold him the dishonour and the bane of virtue.

FAR, far from my idea, Wellon, returned the Major, is your inference; but you seem to forget that every individual has opposite impulses in their breast, the light and shade of nature; and therefore that we grow up, according to the self-cultivation we adopt, either valuable, useful, and estimable members of society, or the terror, the scourge, and the reproach thereof. But to return to the matter in question.

THE

THE first great concern before us is, a discovery of the true state of Davison's and Jemima's inclinations, for such discovery must be the basis of my proceedings towards them.

IF I have any skill, Sir, in the female heart, replied Mrs. Wellon, I think Miss Jemima's inclinations would sustain no violence by your desired disposition of her; but as to the young gentleman, his behaviour has been at all times so truly brotherly, I cannot speak so clearly on his part.

How! cried the Major, are you aware, Wellon, of the frightful distinction you are making between these young persons' conduct? Could Jemima—

YES, Sir, Miss Jemima's face, you shall know it, replied Mrs. Wellon, was all over of the deepest crimson, which I take to be no token of dislike, when I told her Mr. Davison was not her brother; from which incident,

incident, and which alone I have presumed to draw conclusions.

VERY good, very good, said the Major, you now delight instead of terrifying me; we must, however, bring them both to proof; and as it will in all probability be the proof of the moment, I have only to beg you will seem to believe me sincere, let whatever contradictory traits to all you have known me, become visible in my conduct; for your seeming belief will be the grand hinge on which my manœuverings will turn.

POOR Mrs. Wellon was much chagrined to find that this telling her nothing was telling her all it was necessary she should be made acquainted with; but as her master's will was her law, she resolved to keep her eyes and ears about her, that she might not let the opportunity slip by unimproved, on which perhaps she might be best capable of rendering herself useful.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER V.

CONTAINS MANY VERY EXTRAORDINARY  
INCIDENTS.

AT breakfast the next morning the Major thus addressed *Jemima*, and commanded her attention.

I WILL not, said he, my dear child, stoop so low as formerly to disclaim the guilt *Levet* has thought proper to charge me with, but, in return for your narrative of his conduct, give you a plain, a simple, an interesting, and an affecting, sighing deeply, account of those years of my life previous to my family connections, as will best explain wherefore you find me what I now am; Wellon, however, our common friend, from being intitled to a voice in the senate, has a right to be well informed of the nature and all the tie of the point on which she will be

be called to decide: her generosity has hitherto taken my merits upon trust, but henceforth she shall know me, for what you, my *Jemima*, I persuade myself will consider me, a man more sinned against than sinning; so be seated, *Wellon*, and lend me your attentive ear, for I will nothing extenuate, and am confident of being secure from having aught set down in malice.

My peculiarities of temper, said he, so soon as all was hushed and adjusted, were early contracted; for my father, the heir of a man of fashion, with shattered finances, was tempted to marry the daughter of a wealthy trader, who looked upon title as an equivalent for an immense sum of money, and an infallible security for conjugal felicity.

His error was however soon confuted; my father returned to a life of dissipation, and my mother, little more than a school girl, finding rank no cure for either an aching head or an aching heart, resided

altogether at the family mansion, and having just sufficiently mixed with the polite world to be convinced of her own irreparable disqualifications for becoming a member thereof, made a world of her own; until at length, dividing her care and kindness between her nursery and her humble neighbours, she degenerated, as her husband phrased it, into a Lady Bountiful, and as such, was ridiculed by the rich, and adored by the poor, to the utmost verge of her connections and concerns.

My father was so far plunged into the whirl and extravagance of high scenes, that he had his opera girl in keeping, and frequented the gaming table; my mother of course was an object of attention with him, (because only then an object of remembrance) when his ebbing purse demanded new draughts upon the overflowings of her father's coffers.

THE man of commerce once however  
thoroughly



thoroughly awakened from his dream of grandeur, became, on every reiterated application, less and less inclined to pay for pleasures, neither the honour nor the enjoyment of which his daughter was permitted to share; his hesitation threw his Lordship into sullen discontent, his absolute denial into unappeasable anger; bitterness was retorted by bitterness for some time between them, when at length, in consideration of my mother's being his only daughter, the cit proposed taking her and her unborn infant home, for she was then pregnant for the fourth time, though only one son, (the present Lord Paisley) survived; and in order that the heir of the family might not be wholly destitute of provision, though he allowed him, because bred up amongst them, to live with his grandee relations, redeemed a part of the Paisley estate to be enjoyed by him at the age of twenty one; whilst he was endeavouring, he said, to teach himself and his unfortunate child to forget

they had been such lunaticks as to match with quality.

A HOUSE at Enfield, continued the Major, was fitted up for my mother's reception, at which house I was born, and where my mother solely resided. Night, however, brought her my grandfather's company, who regularly concluded his evening's harangue, though his daughter's tears never failed to flow, as she tenderly loved my brother, with observations upon the folly and the ingratitude of the nobility, and the blessings, the importance of trade; and so soon as I was born claimed such unbounded right over me, that he had me christened Davison Jones after his eldest son and himself, and vowed I should not be called by any other, or educated in the quality strain let what would be the consequence.

IN his own way, however, he was extremely fond of me, nor did he suffer one Lord Mayor's shew to pass of which I was  
not

not a spectator, particularly enjoining me to remember upon every such occasion the large fortunes acquired by the Aldermanic body; and with all my infant powers to contrast the weight of their wealth with the nothingness of an empty title: in order to obviate which impressions my mother would not only secretly observe to me that goodness of heart and merit of conduct were confined to no rank, for that where the principles were noble, nobility was most amiable; and on the contrary, that a narrow mind and vicious morals rendered the most enterprising and the most successful son of commerce despicable; but in order, as she said, that brotherly affection might not be extinguished in my heart, made a point of having me conveyed to St. James's each ensuing drawing room day, to the royal birth days, where I was taught, by her friend, to look up to greatness as only inferior to the Divinity himself.

BESIDES my uncle Davison Jones, then

E 3

at

at New York, my mother had a second brother, a boy about fifteen years old, in the counting-house in England, whereas Davison the eldest son, then on the verge of seven and twenty, was in a counting-house at New York, the chief wealth of which centered in their family.

RICHARD, who was a youth of great merit but confined education, continued the Major, was permitted to visit his sister and play with his nephew at every interval from business; during the number of which he several times saw his little *was to be Lordship*, as my grandfather always jeeringly called my brother, and heard anecdotes of high life that to him were very entertaining; for though he wished not himself, he said, to mix with it, as he well knew he was not master of the conversation talents requisite, yet was he in no degree surprised certain minds should be caught by the elegance of appearance, and the polished manners

ners which distinguished the east from the west quarters of the capital.

My young uncle, the name I gave him so soon as I could speak, loved me tenderly, and fancying I was born to figure away at court levees, and have the honour of kissing his Majesty's hand, prevailed upon my mother to let me learn to dance, (a thing protested against by the old gentleman as the first step to idle wishes and wild hopes) as also to bestow some French lessons upon me.

He never came down without filling his pockets with buns and books, and the first were the reward of my reading the last, (as Lord Ogleby calls it) with good emphasis and good discretion, and to him I owe all I have acquired of historical and polite information; for my mother took a religious turn in consequence of her disappointments, and by religious documents weaned herself from every vanity, except what

clung so close to her heart that the hand of dissolution could alone remove it, the desire of living to see my brother a Lord; and happy was it for her that the title of your Ladyship had no charms for her ear, as my grandfather would never permit the sound to be heard in any house of which he considered himself as master.

UNFORTUNATELY one holiday, continued the Major, I believe it was on Good Friday, which with him not a little aggravated the criminality of the action, having found the outward doors open, my grandfather detected Richard in the act of dancing a minuet with me. His rage was intemperate; he accused the worthy and manly youth of puppyism and seduction; you are a fop in grain, said he, to him, and are endeavouring to poison a mind that would have done honour to the metropolitan annals; but I am glad of the discovery, your brother Davison despises all these ornamental, these opera kind of tricks, and shall  
alone,



alone, therefore, have the spending of my money; and this is all the poor child will have to thank you for, though you have hoped to make him a splendid as like the rest of his grandee relations.

RICHARD was speechless; to hear of displeasure that affected his own interest alone, gave him small disturbance; he well knew from what beginnings his father had risen to the affluence he possessed, and feared not to obtain in any other counting-house, the advantages he was denied under the paternal roof—but to hear he had robbed me of provision, an innocent and unoffending child, and that too by so harmless an incident, the colour forsook his cheeks, and my mother thought he would have fainted; he left the room so soon as he was able without reply, and my hard-natured grandfather cried, aye, aye, let him chew the cure, we shall see who is to be master, he or me; he may toil as I have done, and get an offspring in like manner

to oppose and cross him in the favourite wish of his heart, and I will then ask him how he finds himself, for till then he will not be enabled to give me a just and feeling answer.

I WAS so hurt by my young uncle's disgrace, that it seems, continued the Major, I could not be brought out of the pouts, and began to think money literally and truly the root of all evil. My grandfather was more and more irritated; Richard had lost him the child's affections, he said, in an angry and loud accent, and declared he would never pardon him.

I FLEW from my hiding place at these words, and kneeling before him, wept and kissed his hands, as my mother often told me, in a most touching manner.

THOU young dissembler, cried he, this will do at the other end of the town, but we in the city distinguish between the  
love

love of our purse and the love of our persons; so rise and act an insinuating part no longer. I find it has been to little purpose that I have laboured to make you honest, and called you Davison Jones; you are a Paisley by nature as well as by birth, and incapable of becoming a worthy metropolitan.

THIS produced an agony of tears; and he walked about the apartment in much discomposure. Is it for yourself, demanded he at length, your uncle play fellow, or for me, that you bellow thus?

FORGIVE us both, cried I, good Sir forgive us both, and my whole heart can and shall be your's.

WELL, well, returned he, softened, but not without mental reservation, you are a good boy, and so may call your uncle; we will all of us be friends, and let me hear no more of it.

RICHARD returned in an instant, and a reconciliation was patched up; but so true was the old gentleman to his character, that on his deathbed he left both Richard and myself to the generosity of his darling, and alone made my mother independent.

I WAS twelve years old when this event happened. Mr. Davison Jones came over from New York upon the occasion, and proved to be a kind relation. He gave his brother ten thousand pounds to begin the world with, and me five thousand to buy me a commission in the army; for, said he, you have, my little namesake, a sort of military air, and your introduction into a counting-house would therefore turn the heads of all the young fellows you was cast among, and cause endless mischief in the commercial walks of life.

I THOUGHT, continued the Major, my New York uncle the most sensible man on earth; a red coat and a cockade had  
long

long been the secret wish of my heart, and to have all the (till that moment insurmountable) impediments removed at one stroke, made me, I verily fear on looking back, rejoice my old and stern grandfather was no more.

I WAS sent for two or three years to Eton, and from thence to the university; in both of which situations poor Bateman was my beloved companion, and I early set it down on my memory that he should participate my possessions so soon as they became worth his participation; and I had every probable, and of course flattering hope of inheriting large sums from my kind and liberal uncles.

My uncle Davison having settled all his affairs, and left his brother in a place of trust and honour far beyond his years, took leave of us and re-embarked for New York, for the declared purpose of marrying a young lady to whom he had presumed to engage

engage himself without his father's sanction, though it was his fixed resolution never to marry her without such sanction being first had and obtained, and this perhaps, said the Major, much rather from prudential than dutiful considerations; for he was well assured an act of disobedience would prove a mortal stab to his interest, it being the universal menace with the old gentleman, "that his children, if they did not please him by their conduct, should not have the spending of his earnings, let him kick the bucket when he would.

My mother, continued the Major, was perfectly gratified, as well by what her father had left her, as by the agreeable and generous behaviour of her brother Davison, and began to detach her mind in a great measure from the intense devotion she had fallen into. Grief, she said, had weakened her understanding, and led her to believe that a sect whose profession it was to despise the things she was unable to obtain, must  
of



of all others be the best for her to mix in, to support and sooth the heart of disappointment. But that she had not found what she sought; for that on an intimacy with many of those most celebrated for their pious virtues, she discovered a want of charity, and a disposition to mark with severity whatever was done amiss; in other words, that they were wholly destitute of the glowing principles of benevolence, &c. &c. which characterise the sincere Christian. She could not therefore continue a link of such a chain, and was determined in future to live the life of duty as she went along, unaided by other lessons than were obtainable by frequenting the established church of England.

UNCLE Richard and I were overjoyed to have my mother's affections restored to us, as we deemed it; for he would conceive, and had caused me to imbibe the same opinion, that *over religion*, as we called it, shut

shut the door of the heart against every natural, social, and amiable sensation. Beware, however, *Jemima*, said the Major, of hanging false biases upon your judgment from what I have said, for the reality of things, and the notions entertained of them, are often widely different.

UNDER these auspices, for my earliest youth, continued the Major, had very little remarkable in it, I entered the army. *Bateman* started a volunteer, and a Cornetcy was my first purchase, my mother observing that the son of a Lord could not with propriety belong to any other than a regiment of horse, wishing at the same time that I should be called *Captain Paisley*. This both my uncles violently opposed, saying, one child was a sufficient sacrifice to a family who never noticed either her or the boy, and that if he himself could therefore consent to be thrown into the frigid and unnatural arms of his quality relations, well as they loved him, he must bid adieu to every

every hope of inheriting their large possessions.

THIS silenced her, and Davison Jones remained the only name I have ever been distinguished by, and shall so remain to the end of my life.

BATEMAN, by my secret exertions soon obtained a pair of colours, and sorry, Jemima, I am, said the Major, to add, that this act of friendship on my part, laid the foundation of all the unhappiness I have experienced; for almost immediately after, he was despatched on a recruiting expedition, which deprived me of his agreeable company and conversation; and the next news I heard was that he was become a lover.

“SHE is a most amiable woman,” wrote he to me, “but if she meets not with your approbation shall never be the object of my choice. I feel the danger of behold-  
“ing

“ing, and of conversing with her; there-  
“fore, dear Jones, before my heart is gone  
“past all recall, let me see you, and intro-  
“duce you to her, that you may tell me  
“what steps I shall pursue.”

A VERY wise request this, said the Major, from one young fellow to the other. However, in all the presumption of unengaged affection, and unalterable friendship, I set off, and on the very evening of my arrival, saw her, and was undone.

ALAS! Jemima, continued the Major, Wellon can testify I paint not with a partial pencil when I affirm, no woman ever had a lovelier form or a more amiable heart; but her worth and charms, as a pathetic song says, must never more return: a song you will oblige me by learning, for I can now hear it with melancholy pleasure, though once it almost rendered me distracted.

Encompass'd

Encompas'd in an Angel's frame,  
 An Angel's virtues lay;  
 Too soon did Heaven assert its claim,  
 And call'd its own away.  
 My Anna's worth, my Anna's charms  
 Must never more return;  
 What now shall fill these widow'd arms?  
 Alas! my Anna's urn.

SUCH are the words, Jemima, and they  
 thrill through and through my soul. Do  
 you suppose it possible, my child, any man  
 could have written them, untaught by the  
 anguish I have known, the tender anguish!  
 but we will talk no more of it.

I WAS not, continued the Major, I thank  
 Heaven, the pupil of Werter, and there-  
 fore determined, the first possible moment  
 I could do it with a good grace, to fly the  
 contagion,

WELL, ah! well, cried I when alone,  
 might Bateman tremble for his safety. En-  
 chantment sparkles in her eye, and dwells  
 on her lips; the sweetest expressions, the  
 noblest

noblest sentiments, the advocate of her own sex, the friend of our's. Bateman, Bateman, now are we become equal; fortune has indeed favoured me, but in the race of happiness, how far am I left behind!

BATEMAN'S ingenuous soul was open before me. How does she appear to you, said he, is it a lover's or a rational estimate I have made of her merits; do you advise me to marry her?

IF that form was made for deceit, replied I, where shall we seek for the purity the beauty of angels! I think her heart as well as her person a jewel of first rate value, and rejoice to find that such a heart is all your own.

THE honest fellow was too much agitated to be a nice observer, or my looks would have impeached the sincerity of my words.

I WILL



I WILL then, said he, push matters forward, and doubt not but you will do me the honour to go to church with us.

WHATEVER you can ask, or I have the power to grant, towards promoting so desirable an union, replied I, shall be done. I will therefore hold myself in readiness to obey your summons when you draw so near the conclusion that the day is fixed.

No sounds were so dissonant to my ear, as what I had compelled myself to utter; but I remembered she was his by mutual choice and previous engagement to my knowledge of her, and I should therefore have thought myself as culpable in attempting to stand between him in her affections, as if she had been pronounced his wife at the altar.

How you disappoint me, said he, our acquaintance has been long enough to encourage me to press for an early day—a fortnight

night—will you not, Mr. Jones, have the goodness to devote a fortnight to such a cause?

I COULD not answer, but shaking him by the hand, he took that for consent, and led me away to join her in the public walks; where, though a large party was assembled, she shone strikingly forth, the fairest of the fair.

I DWELL upon these circumstances, Je-mima, in order to convince you my tenderness for Davison Bateman is not the offspring of sudden attachment, or capable of diminution, but that he was from the very constitution of my soul what I have always called him, the child of my affections, the source of all my dearest consolation and happiness.

BATEMAN, resumed the Major, after short silence, was perpetually contriving to give me opportunities of drawing her o

up

upon subjects of elegant information; but I had discovered without his assistance that she could talk, good gods how she could talk! and never felt myself in so awkward, so helpless, or so mortifying a situation, as when conversing with her.

At supper he seated us by each other, and was delighted to perceive with what pleasure and respect she addressed me; this is the test, said he, had she not discerned, and visibly subscribed to your manifold excellencies, there would, my Jones, have been no sympathy of sentiment between us, and I must have given up my pursuit.

For three weeks was I persecuted with the kindness of this amiable pair, before the marriage took place; the young Lady insisting upon it so much time was necessary for preparation; she must mean the preparation of her own delicate heart, for her fortune was too small, and Bateman's too limited

ted to require one day's delay for the provision of bridal clothes or deeds of settlement.

THE nuptial morning at length arrived, and I believed there could not be such another in store for me. But the morning this lovely woman exchanged our world for one more deserving of her, taught me my error. May you, *Jemima*, if such a period awaits you, as being united to the man of your choice; may you, said the Major, acquit yourself as honourably as this Lady did, for all that was sweetly feminine and attractive, marked her conduct. I gave her to Bateman with my own hand, and was the next morning seized with a fever, and my life was despaired of.

MRS. BATEMAN was my nurse, *Jemima*, and from her I received all my medicines. She besought me for her husband's sake to be careful of myself, for well do I know,

said

said she smiling, Bateman could give me only a divided heart; a heart that love will find a comfortless mansion, without the occupation of friendship also.

I RECOVERED, and proposed bringing Bateman into my own regiment, but his feelings were too delicate to suffer him to become what he would deem a tax upon my kindness; and not certain whether to serve the husband, or to retain the company of the wife, was my grand impelling motive on the occasion. I gave up the point, and beheld them embark for America.

TIME and reflection had, however, regulated my feelings, insomuch that it was the brother not the lover I was enabled to present myself to her on her return; and Bateman's ill health engrossed all my attention. — With his wife I shared as I would with a sister every succeeding and consequential anxiety, and Wellon has told you my conduct since he was lost to me for ever.

THE little Davison I had indeed made my own from the first moment his mother put him into my arms, saying, here is a proof, Sir, an incontestable proof of our grateful remembrance of you on the other side of the Atlantic; for our child is not only your godson, but has received the name of Davison Jones; let him then find the hoped for place in your affections.

AND Davison Jones Bateman, my dearest Davison is now the only remains of these lamented friends, and I will ever cherish him as such; his father's virtues, his mother's features mark his origin: and next to him is my Jemima's place in my heart; for your mother, my Jemima, as Mrs. Wellon has informed you, was *my* Bateman's companion, her soothing her faithful companion, and the wife of my second choice. — But I have unhinged myself by these tender, these powerful recollections of the days that are gone, and must defer what I have further to  
say



say to you, until I have regained my composure\*.

JEMIMA begged Mrs. Wellon would order the gammon tables, and with a cheerfulness which found its way to the Major's breast, dissipated all his painful sensations, and he retired professing her influence over him was irresistible.

\* For the conclusion of Major Jones' family history, see Page 135.

## CHAPTER VI.

## A TENDER DISCOVERY.

JEMIMA being for the first time assisted to undress by her new waiting maid, was highly entertained with the blunderings of extreme diligence this child of nature was continually committing, and brought their apology, I had almost said their recommendation, along with them; for there is a charm in artlessness, that good minds must be interested by, and a sanctifying somewhat in well-intending that is always an atonement with such minds for rustic performances, besides the certain promise of improvement genuine manners wear; and the full amends a worthy creature makes so soon as that improvement takes place, for every unpolished error of conduct.

MRS. WELLON had indeed given her repeated

peated lessons, practical ones, about her own person, but Rosina always acted from the impulse of the moment; and with strong feeling, had so large a portion of timidity, that the fear of offending deprived her of the power of being useful, and an ardent wish to please rendered her best efforts awkward and singular.

THE ensuing morning Jemima, with her usual good humour, which disposed every beholder to be good humoured also, waited a few moments for the Major's appearance at the breakfast table, being now able to leave his chamber.

WHAT! cried he, as he entered, have you stole a march upon me, Wellon? no foul play I hope. Mrs. Wellon courtesied and smiled in that manner which bespeaks a sound conscience more strongly than a thousand protestations, and the Major saying he was satisfied, Jemima proceeded to make tea.

WE shall, said the Major, touch no more tender strings; what I now have to mention is of the business nature, (for the conclusion of my family history will keep cool as long as we please) the future happiness of my children, for such I shall ever consider them, and so with your permission, young Lady, I will come to the point at once.—Jemima bowed, and the Major being authorized by her consent went on as follows.

WITH what pleasure I observed your infant and innocent attachment to Davison, Wellon can inform you; you were both of you lovely children, and the secret wish of my heart was that you should prefer each other to the whole world: this wish has been disappointed; (Jemima changed countenance) unfortunately for us all, continued the Major, the boy has made a distinct choice; she is however amiable, and will not fail to enliven our domestic parties, but must never hope to rival our Jemima in my esteem;

esteem; the young Lady sighed, and fell back in her chair.

MY child, my child, cried the Major, revive, forgive and look upon me; Mrs Welton chafed her temples with hartshorn; wretch that I am thus wantonly, thus cruelly to sport with your tender sensibility.

JEMIMA revived, and the Major in great haste, as a relieving piece of intelligence, told her he had only that villain Levet's information to depend upon, who being employed by him to explain Davison his own and his supposed sister's birth, and found the young man's inclination, reported, he brought him to acknowledge the discovery was made too late, for that his heart was engaged; but come come my sweet girl, continued he, we will discredit so *knaveish* an assertion, and Davison shall, I trust, still be your own.

AH Sir, said Jemima, spare me, I cannot stand your raillery; but how was it possible

for me to be acquainted with Mr. Davison's excellencies, as I am acquainted with them, and when I had lost my sisterly interest! —

My dear good Girl, said the Major, your interest to use your own words in Davison Bateman's excellencies does honour to your taste, your discernment, your principles; fear not then that I shall betray you, I have quite another card to play with this irresistible youth, for I mean to probe his sentiments to the quick, and if he does not turn out sterling worth and sterling understanding I will forfeit my head, and for this plain reason, Jemima, such a female as his supposed sister, take my word for it, is not easily to be met with, and I think he would not be very forward to attach himself to one he found her inferior, for hope leads us a fine dance on all these occasions. Therefore, so far so good, continued the Major, I will write to him immediately, and tell him we not only desire a visit from him, but that he will leave his college gravity behind him;  
this



this will prepare him to expect a lively party, and let me alone for the rest; he shall *love* my *Jemima*, love her above her whole sex, or here do I forbid the bans, he shall never obtain her.

THE Major's letter soon brought the young Gentleman to the Hall, where the first person he met with was poor *Rosina*.

HE asked for his father, his sister, Mrs. Wellon. They are all, an please your gracious Honour, said *Rosina*, gone to *fetch* an airing.

THEY are well however, I hope, returned he, and was walking forward to the breakfast parlour.

AYE, replied *Rosina*, by God's good mercy, your Honour, they are all pretty well at last, but it was a moot point whether your Honour had ever seen them more.

DAVISON was alarmed! have they been ill? demand he,—you have put me to the torture.

DOWN on her knees, dropped Rosina— if I have offended your Honour, said she, I am an undone girl! —Just tasted a little prosperity, your Honour, and have now I fear dashed the cup from my lips—look not so angry, or you will kill me by your looks.

By Heaven! cried Davison, you ask the mercy you do not show. Simple, timid, soft-tempered girl, rise; I am not angry, but agitated; rise and tell me what has been the matter.

NEVER, said Rosina, with folded and uplifted hands, never will I rise until your Honour has forgiven me. I put your Honour's heart and soul to the torture, I that owe every thing to the heavenly-minded

Miss

Miss *Jemima*, Major *Jones*' daughter-in-law.

I FORGIVE you heartily, said *Davison*, raising her, and as heartily intreat you will follow me and explain what you have now mentioned. I am a friend of the Major's, of Miss *Jemima*, and you may trust me with all the family secrets.

SECRETS! repeated *Rosina*, for the matter of that, your Honour, there are no secrets in this worthy house, except from the young heir, Mr. *Davison*, I think they call him, the Major's son-in-law likewise, but by another wife. But Lord help me, you are so like a fine young gentleman, that I verily thought you were he.

DAVISON was all impatience to have her go on.

NAY, your Honour's goodness, said she, must pardon me there; what I know must

not be known to man, woman, or child, it seems, out of this house, until his Majorship, (and I need not tell you who are his friend, how high and how great a gentleman he is) until he has had some sport with his son, as he believes himself to be, though he is no more his own flesh and blood than Miss *Jemima*; and she, your Honour, is just as much so as I, the poor girl who was alarmed by her cries when a wicked parson ran away with her.

By the maker of heaven and earth, cried *Davison* jumping up, you will drive me distracted! When run away with? How, by whom run away with? Speak quick, for I will know the height and depth of my misfortunes.

AGAIN *Rosina* fell upon her knees and besought his pardon. I will tell your Honour all, said she, straight forward as it happened, if you will give me but a calm hearing. You talk of distraction, your Honour,  
I wonder

I wonder which of us is nearest losing their senses; I, that am scared, so I am, by your Honour's jumpings and your Honour's oaths, or you that have not heard the tythe of the sad, sad things which have happened Miss Jemima.

DAVISON ran to a bell to pull it with violence, but recollecting that if a lively plot, as he had every reason to believe was the case, was formed against him, every one but this child of simplicity would be upon their guard; and recollecting also, which was a wonderful circumstance in the wild tumult of his feelings, that if any great calamity had befallen Jemima, his father would not be much disposed for pleasantry. He turned about to the poor kneeling girl, who from an impulse of fear and shame had covered her face with her apron, and told her he was sorry he had frightened her, but that now his first surprise was over she had nothing to fear; so might stand up and speak  
after

after her own manner without check or interruption.

O THE glad tidings! said she, instantly getting upon her feet; I shall honour your Honour for this graciousness so long as breath is in my body.

VERY well, very well, said Davison, and now about Miss Jemima and the Parson; tell me all as fast as you can or we shall have them home, and must part never perhaps to have such another opportunity.

PART, repeated Rosina, yes, by my truly must we, for the poor and the rich are not to join company; though I will be bound for it, as my noble, and as good as noble master, Major Jones your Honour's friend says, what we want in whirligig airs and gimcrack grimaces, we make up in simple-mindedness and an upright conscience.

YOUR observation is just, replied Davison,  
son,



son, and your reasoning excellent ; so now, if you please, we will talk of Miss *Jemima* and the wicked *Parson*.

IF I please ! alackaday, Sir, cried *Rosina*, what pleasure have I to call my own ? the will of my betters is my law, and to please them my gospel ; and this I'll uphold.

WE will talk of these matters some other time, said *Davison*.

AYE, Sir, replied she, are you not one of *Parson Levet's* sort yourself ? believe me, verily fear you are, to say and unsay in this manner ; for it is not two minutes ago that you was telling me, no time would ever be like the present, and now you are talking to me of time to come ; and is not this downright *hypocrisy* ?

DAVISON finding nothing could be done with her, and (by looking on his watch)  
that

that the Major would soon return, put half a crown into her hand, and intreated her not to take notice to any one of what had passed; for to own the truth to you, my honest, kind, well-intending girl, said he, I am the very Davison you suspected me to be; yet no alarms are necessary; for my own sake I shall never say I have seen you, and I therefore advise you to set about your family business before my arrival is known.

I WILL do as you bid me, Sir, replied Rosina, only pray your Honour remember I am Miss Jemima's waiting maid; (here her tears burst out) yes, your Honour found me the happy, the dignified, the blessed waiting maid of her ladyship, but God and your Honour only knows what you will leave me; yet to kill me outright would be a hundred and a hundred times more humane than to tumble me down into sorrow and littleness, and nothing to keep myself with.

DAVISON

DAVISON, as there was no other method of getting rid of her, ran out of the room, protesting he would never name her to any one either in or out of the house, and therefore she might entirely compose herself.

HAVING walked into the garden, he vainly strove to collect himself. Jemima, cried he, the beautiful, the amiable, the enchanting (he was on the point of saying) Jemima, not my sister! how shall I be able to conceal my agitation?—but let me be cautious; this simple girl may mistake the fact, may have mistated it, misreported it; yet how? wherefore mistake such precise particulars—we are the Major's children by his marriage with two different ladies! —my ears will never lose the sound! —&c. &c.

BUT here they come, said he looking out from the terrace, and I will not spoil their

their amusement by a premature discovery of what I have heard. —

SWEET, sweet and excellent Jemima, I am wholly your's.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER VII.

## A SEVERE EXPERIMENT.

THERE he is, exclaimed the Major, I knew my letter would bring him on the wings of curiosity—and of affection, my dear Sir.

JEMIMA and the Major alighted from the carriage and entered the garden, and before their mutual congratulations on their reunion were over, they reached the Hall.

WHERE is Mr. Levet? asked Davison, by way of a leading question; this is the first time, affecting to look around him, I ever knew him fail to give me an immediate welcome.

OAYE, said the Major, we have, Davison, a long story to tell you about Levet,  
and

and could only now perhaps tell it you with safety; for, would you believe it, he has had the audacity to make love to your sister.

DAVISON started, the word sister jarring on his ear and on his heart. But wherefore, said he to himself this discord? If my sister! will not that certainly chase the lover from my breast, as it was alone the information no ties of consanguinity subsisted between us that introduced a lover there?

I WAS prepared for your astonishment, said the Major, for well may you be astonished. But what, my dear Davison, would have been your agonizing feelings if you had known when she was trepanned by his artifice from school into his power, at the mercy of his conveyance in a post chaise to wherever his iniquity should give the word! would not this have been a severe distress to so affectionate a brother?

DAVISON



DAVISON was on the rack, not on Levett's account, for it was clear to him his machinations had been defeated, but he could not look, he could not speak to Jemima with ease or satisfaction, until his suspense was removed respecting their relationship. At length, finding the Major expected him to say something, well Sir, I beseech you to proceed.

OFF he carried her, resumed the Major, and freely he would have treated her—— (Davison got up, then sat down) if she had not sensibly and resolutely repulsed him——and I can only add, that her deliverance was a miracle, and here you have her safe and sound.

I AM all confusion, dismay! Sir, replied Davison.—Jemima, I cannot express my grief, my joy, my wonder.

WHY? cried the Major, (winking upon Mrs. Wellon, who had officiously stationed herself

herself behind Mr. Davison's chair) I will do you the justice to say you make but a blundering piece of business of it; whereas, if the secrets of all hearts were to be known, *we* have most reason for confusion and dismay, and resentment too: but having contrived to be even with you we forgive you, and only beg to be informed who your favourite lady is, and what are her letters of recommendation.

WHO? how? what have I lost? cried he, looking wildly.

A LADY, replied the Major coolly, I had chose for you (has he not Jemima) that would have made us all happy; but as what is passed cannot be recalled, I have determined, as I told you before, to forgive you, (have I not Jemima?) and only ask to know who the lady is that stands between my wishes.

I UNDERSTAND you not, Sir, said Davison,  
son,

son, no Lady has attached me, I brought into this house an unengaged heart, what fatal error can you then have fallen into? what evil have you *Jemima* prepared for me?

YOUR sister prepared evil for you! replied the Major, a likely story truly; no Sir, she would have prepared the greatest earthly good for you and for us all if you had only given her leave; for, know, rash and precipitate young man, instead of your sister, if you had not rendered that desirable event impossible, by the predisposal of yourself, my *Jemima*, your *Jemima* should have become your wife. She is now, however, continued he, disposed of in turn, and I have sent for you to assist at her nuptials.

Not my sister, exclaimed Davison, and given to another! then does not a greater wretch exist than you have rendered me; all the pride the pleasure of my life was to think of her matchless excellencies—O! if not my sister, wherefore, wherefore bestowed upon

upon another! you have undone my peace of mind, but you shall not poison my principles, I will never behold her more!—no Sir.—No *Jemima*—I will never more behold you.

VERY pleasant and very civil this, said the Major, so I find I am to bear the blame of my intended kindness for ever! Was there a window, disconsolate Sir, in your heart, how then could I perceive your affections were wandering to another. Had you been communicative, you would have found me the same, and that lovely, and as you justly call her, amiable creature, would have been your reward.

DAVISON now for the first moment recollected what *Rosina* had said to him, “they will have sport with you,” the sight of *Jemima*, and the Major’s mentioning she was given to another, having driven all that had passed between him and *Rosina* out of his head; and therefore becoming suddenly  
calm

calm begged the Major would relate to him how that Lady, for he knew not, he said, what name to give her, was discovered not to be his near relative.

WE will turn you over to Wellon for that long history, replied the Major; for I assure you it is both long and interesting, yet since you persist in your resolution to be all on the reserve with us, I scarcely see what claims you have to our explanations; what say you, Jemima?

IF I knew what would be most agreeable to you, Sir, answered Jemima, I would certainly say it.

I BELIEVE you, I believe you said the Major laughing, for however Davison may be in the pouts, your mind seems to be all peace, harmony, and good will towards men. But why blush child, the rogue of your heart is not present, if he was I should know how to be silent.

THIS raillery fitting very uneasily upon Davison's feelings, and looking behind him, finding Mrs. Wellon was one of the company, he besought her to attend him to her own little parlour, and have the goodness to relate to him all the particulars the Major's reference to her gave him authority to ask for.

I WOULD lay a thousand guineas, said the Major, on Mrs. Wellon and Davison's withdrawing together; that artful young puppy sifts every thing out of Wellon; or should that not happen to be the case, that your tenderness for the sweet youth's repose will prompt you, out of due season, to tell him all.

I KNOW not, said Jemima, from what apparent weakness you form these suspicions of me, Sir; but this I do know, that you yourself would be very sorry if his misapprehension of circumstances was to lead him  
into



into any act of conduct contrary to your wishes.

SOLOMON was a novice, replied the Major, to the wisdom my *Jemima* possesses. I am so far at least serious, added he, that the lesson *love* teaches you, friendship shall teach me; for, true it is, there may be danger in carrying the jest much beyond the present mark, and therefore, observe me child, I invest you from this moment with a discretionary power to reveal a part, or the whole plot to him, when and where you may conceive it best.

DAVISON, who had drawn from the good natured Mrs. Wellon, as the Major had predicated, all he wished to know, seeing *Jemima* go into the garden, set off at an avenue that he was well aware terminated on the spot to which she was advancing, and consequently that they should meet each other in a short time.

WITH downcast eyes and measured step, (for her mind was not satisfied with the part she had acted) walked Jemima, until, to her great surprise, she was stopped, having all unconscious walked into Mr. Davison's arms.

HE retained her not, but begged pardon for having alarmed her, the occasion, however, said he, was so fair and tempting it was not to be resisted; for remember, young Lady, the act was your own; I placed myself, it is true, my arms extended before you, but you had only to have lifted up your eyes, to discover and disappoint my presumption.

JEMIMA made no reply.

O JEMIMA! exclaimed he, after some moments' silence, what words can speak the magnitude of that misery I must have endured if you had been lost to me for ever! I thought you, continued he, when I believed myself

myself your brother, the most perfect of nature's works; if, said I, in my retired hours, if I can but obtain a wife worthy of my sister's friendship, and capable of conversing with her, I shall be a happy man indeed, for Jemima will never cause me to blush at her choice, and if I may compliment myself, there could not in such a situation be a superior party quarrée in the whole universe.

JEMIMA walked on in silence.

IF then, resumed Mr. Davison, the perfections of Major Jones' Jemima when considered alone as the perfections of a sister, formed by Heaven for another, could thus occupy my daily and nightly reflections, can you not conjecture how I must estimate them, when encouraged to look up to you with the fond hope of calling you mine.

MAJOR JONES, Mr. Davison, replied Jemima—Now now, said Davison, passionately interrupting her and taking her hand,

I have not a doubt remaining, for well must my *Jemima* be assured the ties of nature exist not between us, when she can teach her lips such cold epithets. Mr. Davison! I would rather be called Mr. Davison by my *own* *Jemima*, than the most tender and endearing name consanguinity (one only species excepted) or her kind heart could dictate.

It is so surprising, said *Jemima*, so new, so — so — I have not an expression to paint my ideas, Sir, to find, when I had conceived I had a brother, such extraordinary language as your's, on our present interview, justifiable, that I know not what to answer.

TELL me, my *Jemima*, replied Davison, what I actually already believe, only tell me that brotherly affection alone has ever been called forth in your heart; I mean not where I am concerned, for that is self evident, but where the whole race of mankind

kind besides is concerned, (Major Jones excepted) and you will speak peace, and joy, and felicity to my breast.

NEED I reply, said the blushing Jemima, to so obvious a point! who have I ever been acquainted with, Mr. Davison, to steal away my heart, which you now flatter me is your desired acquisition! for, are you not the only young man (unless you can set Levet down for your rival) I have had any opportunity of conversing with; but surely, Sir, it is not kind to leave Major Jones so long alone.

I FEEL the justness of your rebuke, said Davison, Major Jones is entitled to every attention I can pay him; Mrs. Wellon has set the manyfold obligations I owe him before me, and he shall never have cause to call me the degenerate son of estimable parents.

DAVISON repaired to the drawing room, where the Major immediately told him, that

as the jest could not be carried farther, he had only to obtain *Jemima's* consent to become a bridegroom.

I HAVE, you must know, continued he, as I understand from report, for I have never yet visited it, a very beautiful seat in Wales, and I begin to think an excursion would improve my health; what say you then my boy? shall we keep your wedding there, or will you chuse to have the ceremony safely over before we begin our travels?

I SUBMIT these points to your determination, because I am persuaded the gentle *Jemima* cannot withstand our united sollicitation.

MR. DAVISON said his father might easily guess how a young man would decide, if so selfish as to consult his own happiness alone; but that if the delicacy of *Jemima's* mind required time, as she had seemed to intimate to him it would, to wear out the  
traces



traces of their long mistaken relationship, he was anxious to acquiesce and let her time be his.

THUS, cried the Major, thus does true and heart-felt affection evermore display itself; self-love is an appetite that can feed upon the wounded feelings; but where the heart is touched we are tender of the peace, tenacious of the honour, and alive to every sensation of refinement and soft consideration for the beloved object, and are rendered happy by promoting that dearer happiness; and I now with joyfulness affirm, was Jemima worth a thousand worlds, you, my Davison, richly deserve her.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## A RIGHT HONOURABLE OVERTURE.

ROSINA not being able to discover how matters went, was prompted by the goodness, the sensibility of her heart, to wish for an opportunity of asking the question of the fine young gentleman who had so freely questioned her, for one good turn, according to her equitable logic, deserved another; so happening to blunder into the library with these ideas uppermost in her head, where Davison was seated alone and reading, she making him one of her best courtesies, humbly begged leave to know if any harm was done?

DAVISON for the first time regarding her person, discovered her to be a beautiful rustic, with every attraction of blooming innocence

innocence about her. How dangerous, said he mentally, this extreme simplicity, how lovely her form! Under any other predicament might I not be tempted to be a villain, and take an equally cruel and base advantage? but under any predicament my heart tells me better things. If then, as the preserver of my *Jemima*, I do not hold her sacred, *Levet* himself would be a white character to me.

THE poor girl stood trembling whilst these reflections were passing in his mind, like a criminal that was to receive sentence of death; and was beyond measure transported on being assured that all was safe and well.

THEN, then said she, I may call myself settled in my high office, for if what has happened does not warn me out, I warrant I will take good care of the future; and so Sir, your Honour's servant, again courtesying,

ing, to the best of her abilities; and away she tripped with light heels and a light heart.

JEMIMA was much pleased with the proposed visit to Wales, and furnished herself immediately with Pennant's history of the curiosities, antiquities, &c. &c. thereof; and the result of her reading was, that she pronounced the Welch the wisest, and, in consequence of their wisdom, the happiest people upon earth; for they trouble not themselves, said she, with political contests, and though the actual and illustrious Aborigines of Britain, as the height from which their ancestors have been precipitated is unattainable, prefer content to commotion, and tranquility to all the fluctuating honours of greatness.

MAJOR Jones said he had many obligations to the Cambrians; and my grandmother, continued he, on becoming the wife of a British citizen, had all her consequence  
of

of descent allowed her; but when my grandfather's ambitious hopes were finally extinguished by the neglect my mother met with from the honourable family into which he married her, he would frequently declare how much he despised the pride and folly of those who extorted homage from the weak and the uninformed, because a few of their antiquated forefathers had the honour of mouldering into dust within the walls of Westminster Abbey; adding, on all such occasions, as a kind of apostrophe to me, if their extension of commerce, my boy, had brought them there, indeed their monuments would have exhibited so many stimulatives for the happy prosecution of commerce; but when the whole secret came out of what the proud marble contained, to find it amount to no more than the poor story that a hot-headed Welchman was mouldering there in state, who but must laugh at the egregious absurdity of raking charnelhouses for fame, and helps to the pencil of the herald, for proving the importance,

portance of the living from the noisome condition of the dead!

DAVISON and Jemima talked her delicate scruples over, until she could not deny they were more than half subdued; which the Major was no sooner made acquainted with, considering such acknowledgment as a full authority for his proceedings, than he gave Mrs. Wellon a boundless commission in her preparations for the approaching union of his children, which it was his wish should precede their intended journey, and set the lawyers with all expedition to work, that their temporal provision should be fixed as fate. When lo! what should arrive in the midst of all this interesting business, but a letter from Lord Paisley, the Major's right honourable, and for years totally unknown, brother, to tell him he was on the point of making him a fraternal visit.

NATURAL affection is seldom wholly extinct in the worthy breast, no intercourse  
whatever



whatever had passed between these near relations from the death of their mother, the Joneses disdaining to mix with imperious nobility; nevertheless the Major expected his brother's visit with pleasure, for he was the son of his mother; and as there could be little doubt but the stay of so great a personage would be short, the wedding was postponed for that period.

I NOW recollect, Jemima, said the Major, his brother's letter lying on the table before him, that I left my family history unfinished on a former occasion; it may not therefore be mal-apropos, for the prevention of mistakes, to wind it up, as a kind of preface to your approaching introduction to the head of our house,

JEMIMA and Davison professed themselves all attention, and the Major began as follows:

My New York uncle (for I clearly remember,

member, said the Major, the circumstance from whence I started aside to your immediate concerns, which have totally engrossed and occupied my mind ever since) recrossed the Atlantic, having settled his affairs with honour to himself, and satisfaction to all his *acknowledged* relatives, (for his acknowledgment of relatives was confined to the west side of Temple Bar) to encounter distress and mortification; for the lady to whom I told you he was engaged, had jilted him, and bestowed herself during his short absence on a little skipping Lieutenant in the army; and his letters which contained this intelligence, contained the intelligence also, that, in a fit of disgust he had resolved, so soon as he could transmit his property, to bid adieu to that section of the globe, and pitch his tent in England.

My mother, who foresaw all the advantages this resolution would be productive of, highly encouraged it, and my *Lord was to be*, as my grandfather and my uncle Richard

Richard always called my brother in private, was instructed by this fond parent how to insinuate himself into the good graces of Mr. Davison Jones, on his residence in England, that he might not forfeit his share of the loaves and fishes he had to bestow. The boy of quality promised to *steech* to every rule she prescribed, but poor woman, she did not live to see that promise either broken or fulfilled; and, though I solemnly affirm I never gave her an intentional offence, the partiality of her will was such, as would have justified very severe conclusions in any person unknowing of my conduct towards her. This partiality, however, procured her the honour of being buried in the vault of her great alliance, and an inscription to tell the world that the remains of Lady Paisley were lodged within, though, from the time of her return to the house of her father Mr. Jones, the sound of your Ladyship was never permitted to salute her ear, nor should I have ever known, but from stolen interviews between her and  
her

her favourite son, that she was entitled to such appellation.

WHAT my mother however deprived me of, continued the Major, on the one hand, was amply made up to me by my uncle Davison Jones' generosity on the other, who protested no Lord should ridicule his memory whilst he was rioting on his fortune. Accordingly, by the disposition of his immense wealth, I was rendered, when a very young man, master of this Hall, to which I gave, as a small tribute to the memory of my liberal relation, his Christian name, and might have kept a coach and six if such had been the ambition of my heart.

THIS beloved uncle, to fill up the measure of his misfortunes, was only a few months in England after my mother's death before he was found drowned near Greenwich hospital; but whether by his own unhappy act, accident, or the outrage of some secret enemy, (which latter, I own, was the suggestion

suggestion of my deeply wounded feelings) could never be ascertained.

AND thus, my children, said the Major, did good and evil fortune go hand in hand with me through life.

My uncle Richard was the last that survived; and when he dropped off, my possessions were prodigiously augmented. But, as Dr. Young says,

Can wealth give happiness! look round and see.

WHAT gay distress, what splendid misery! nay, so ungrateful have I been, on repeated occasions, to Providence, that my mental exclamation has been, "Still wealth! O! wherefore still wealth? Let me for once taste the cup of happiness; the happiness that wealth cannot purchase, that wealth cannot preserve!"

MR. DAVISON

MR. DAVISON BATEMAM, though he could not handsomely acknowledge as much to the Major, approved not of delaying his union with the all-lovely *Jemima*, from this *new* cause; for, however much the disparity of age between her and the man of rank made it absurd to apprehend a rival, and that her unambitious and amiable heart was declaredly his own, yet was it impossible for him to be so tranquil, from whatever dictates of reason or good sense, as previous to the annunciation of this high visit; whilst *Jemima*, who neither perceived nor suspected his unaccountable emotion, from thinking every act of Major Jones' natural, just and fit, was alone anxious to acquit herself in each accruing instance, to his perfect satisfaction.

THE 'bustle in the housekeeper's room exciting the curiosity of poor *Rosina*, she begged Mrs. Wellon would have the goodness to tell her what it all meant; for

seem



seems to me, said she, that this worthy family are about to produce a famine in the land, and to dig their own graves with their teeth, by devouring such a mountain of things as are now getting ready to set before them.

It is for the entertainment of a great Lord, replied Mrs. Wellon, the brother of my master, and on the first visit too; and Lords, I suppose you must have heard, Rosina, are accustomed to have their tables supplied with abundant delicacies.

BUT, said Rosina, Heaven preserve us, a Lord can eat no more than another man, I trow! and how then can he like to smell and see dishes on dishes that must be sent away untasted.

It was the fashion, Mrs Wellon replied, and from the superfluities of the rich the poor were benefited.

THERE

THERE is some usefulness in that, cried Rosina; thof, in my poor opinion, money to buy tools, and fet an industrious family agoing in their way of bufinefs, would be much better than teaching them to feed upon fine kickshaw scraps that coft a world of trouble and expence to make a fhew of for an hour or two.

IN a word, it was plain that every good natured attempt to give Rosina some idea of fashionable customs and fashionable life only augmented her wonder at the pride and the wickednefs of mere mankind trying, ſhe ſaid, to make themſelves too big for the earth, and treading all its good fruits and meats, as it were, under their feet; but it ſhall go hard, added ſhe, ſince it has ſo come to paſs, that ſimple I am to room under the ſame roof with a lordly gentleman, but I will find out in what reſpect of head work or of heart work he is above other fleſh and blood, and worſhip him accordingly; for is it not to worſhip one's fellow creature

creatures, demanded she, to bow, and totter before them? and with fear and trembling to hear and to do their bidding? like as if the one was made of gold and jewels, and the other of clay and dirt, in the comparifon.

JEMIMA held a long converfation, if it could be called fuch, with Rofina, in confequence of Mrs Wellon's reports of her marvellings upon life and human nature; for what good do fine clothes do, faid Rofina, but dazzle the eyes of the poor, and make the rich strut as a peacock does when he has fpread out his *moonified* tail; not that your Ladyfhip, cried she, fuddenly correcting herfelf, or the Major's honour, or the young and handsome Squire Davifon value them a jot more than they ought to be valued, for all three of you walk and talk as if you had nothing but rags (faving your Ladyfhip's prefence) upon your foulders; but then who is it that does the fame?—Alas me! yes, your Ladyfhip, a fecond time  
aware

aware she was wrong, for good Madam Wellon when even dressed up in her silk Damask and furbelowed gowns is as gentle and gracious as your very Ladyship.— Whereas, continued she sighing, a filken gown would wholly and solely turn my poor head inside out, and loose me my senses.

JEMIMA very gravely replied to this long harangue, that she must get the better of such notions, because as a Lady's maid she was entitled to wear whatever clothes her Lady wore before her, and particularly on the approaching occasion, when Lord Paifley would bring a retinue with him, to look down upon all those who did not appear as if they knew what dress was.

SEND me back to the heath side then, cried Rosina, from whence you have taken me, though I know it would break my heart, but if I must die, better an please your Ladyship to die of a broken heart, than of  
 shame-

shamefacedness, which would surely be the case if I was to be stuck out in things I was not born to wear, or ever saw until I ran from our cottage, on hearing a great clatter at the toll-gate, to my father.

WHAT! said Jemima, have you no fine Ladies in your county?

NOT, replied Rosina, on our side the heath; and father and mother always kept me from the toll-house, lest I should see any great folks, and wish to run after them into harm's way.

How then, said Jemima, do they contrive to bear your absence now; have they not a thousand apprehensions for your safety?

THEY believe it, replied Rosina, all the work of God, and trust me to his care; for wherefore, said father, did it happen, a wicked man does a wicked act, and I am the very *he* called upon by an unknown voice

for assistance — my innocent and harmless child, from her obscure cottage, hears the cry of distress, and thinking her poor old father is beset, flies to help him all she can, without one fear for her own danger — at the toll-house she finds a sweet young Lady, whom she believes at her last gasp, the tears of pity roll down her cheeks, and she would give the whole nation's wealth to be useful to her — her honest Ladyship opens her eyes, sees every one around her simple, kind, and courteous, and so invites my poor silly girl to go home with her Ladyship, where riches and plenty abound; and who could say nay to a chance that fell in their way from the very clouds? — to suppose that she who was saved would destroy or knowingly let a child, whose heart her distress and agreeable looks had won, bring the grey head of her fond father to the grave with sorrow or with shame, would be desperately unjust — and that therefore there was no way left, but to let the trial speak for all; and, trusting



trusting in God and a good conscience, defy the devil and all his works.

JEMIMA was much struck by this artless reliance on her protection in return for protection received. I should not, said she, have felt, and consequently should not have performed my duty by this lovely uninformed girl, if the sense of that duty had been unawakened by what she has so touchingly related. I will however make atonement; my chamber shall be her place of defence against the wiles of the bold, and perhaps licentious men, this to me unwelcome Lord may have in his train. She accordingly gave immediate orders for the introduction of a couch; and bidding Rosina sleep thereon, whilst the house continued full of visitors, secretly congratulated herself that by such means the innocent and handsome girl would be certain of sleeping in security.

## CHAPTER IX.

A LORD.

THE Day at length arrived on which Davison Hall was to be honoured with a visit from Lord Paisley.

ROSINA strained her eyes with watching; every wind that agitated the distant trees of the great avenue, was concluded by her to announce him at hand; and she marvelled that no one besides herself trembled at the idea of talking to a Lord.

SHE had made it her business, in the fulness of her expectation, to tell all the trades people's servants that came within ear-shot of her, the cause of all their great doings; and as a Lord, at least the brother of Major Jones, had never before been seen by his humble friends and tenants, a general curiosity

curiosity prevailed, and the doors of the village houses were crowded to see him pass.

THE glitter of his equipage, and the pomp of his approach, were powerfully felt by Rosina's mind; but when, on his alighting at the Hall door, she discovered his great and high Lordship to be a poor thin meagre old looking man, she declared she could not do him homage; for that if he could pass for a Lord, Mr. Davison might pass for a King or a Prince, any hour or day in the whole year.

WITH Lord Paisley came three footmen, a coachman, and a *valet*, an acknowledged favourite of his Lordship, insomuch that his first request was that his *own* man might be treated with indulgence.

THE Major received his brother at the Hall door, and would have given him the

heartly Old English welcome of a shake by the hand, but Lord Paisley turning somewhat abruptly from him, demanded who those young people were? (meaning Jemima and Davison); and received for answer, the Major at the same time presenting them, that they were his adopted and well beloved children.

HAD the Major, however, been a man of the world, he would have been aware that his *adopted* children could be no very agreeable objects to his brother, from the idea of divided wealth and divided affection; but his heart was so liberal, that instead of entertaining one suspicion of Lord Paisley's illiberality, he concluded those who were confessedly dear to him would be esteemed by his near relation,

LORD PAISLEY, from excess of politeness, indiscriminately commended all he tasted and beheld; the Hall was well built,  
the

the gardens extensive and well kept, the furniture superbe, and the dinner super-excellent. He harangued upon the merit of French cookery for the purpose solely of proving that the English were seldom left behind in skill and judgment, except indeed, he owned, that they were apt to render their *petit soupés* a Lord Mayor's feast, and their dinners, election entertainments; for example, continued his Lordship, no less than half a dozen substantial joints would have been struck, brother, from your to-day's bill of fare by persons of ton, and as they would affirm with improvement; but for my part, an error on the side of hospitality never shocks me, for I much rather call such errors acts of munificence.

MAJOR JONES, who, though without the parade of high breeding or the affectation of high taste, had to all intents and purposes the manners of a gentleman, was not altogether satisfied with the elaborate civi-

lity of his brother. He had not courted the unequal connection, and did not think the exchange of his tranquility for fashionable fetters an exchange for the better. His children, moreover, were not, he could perceive, by any means so much at their ease as they ought to be, and nothing, therefore, but the hope that his noble visiter's ennui would occasion his speedy departure could have rendered his presence supportable to him. Add to all which, instead of his beloved backgammon, he was pinned down by good breeding to the inanimate game of vingt-une, and could scarcely keep from yawning the whole evening.

NOR did a state of less derangement take place in the steward's room, where his Lordship's valet was fullen and self-important to an extreme, and never once honoured any person or thing with notice, until Rosina, in her rustic way, burst into the company with a loud laugh, imagining Mrs. Wellon



Wellon was alone, to tell her somewhat of his Lordship.

ROSINA was struck dumb when she beheld the valet (who, being a great admirer, as he that moment chose to profess himself, of female beauty) reaching her a chair, and entreating her to make one of the company.

SHE blush'd and courtesy'd, and courtesy'd and blush'd without either absolutely refusing or granting his request; and as every heightening of her complexion heightened her genuine charms, the valet began to lavish praises upon her, which, to his great surprise and disappointment, instead of drawing her out to be lively and sociable, sealed up her lips for the whole evening.

THE truth was, that Rosina was terrified, not flattered by his behaviour. What good design could he have, said she, in telling me

so many false and wicked stories? Heaven must be a fine place indeed, if the angels make no better a figure than I do! And moreover, continued she, his talk was so much like what I have heard of Mr. *Levet's* high-flown speeches, that I wish never to have any thing to do with him.

MRS. WELLON, fearful lest this shy and uninformed girl should offend the favourite of her master's brother, told her she was wrong to take such sudden and early aver-  
sions to people; that valets were generally fops, and that their new visiter was only shewing his wit, when she thought him bold and forward; and therefore she must on all occasions give him a patient hearing, unless it should be possible, which she believed it never could, for him to treat her improperly.

ROSINA stared, and tears started in her eyes; what then, said she, is it not improper

per for him to talk to me like a very fool or knave, or both for aught I know? I am sure, Madam Wellon, if I was to call a monkey a man, or a man a monkey, I should be hissed and laughed at for my pains; and who shall make me believe, that to call me an angel is not downright blasphemy.

MRS. WELLON could not with sincerity controvert this close argument; therefore, telling her she must put the best face she could upon the matter, found a pretext to send her to, and keep her employed in her young Lady's apartment.

THE whole family retired to rest with discontented minds, though from different motives.

LORD PAISLEY declared to his valet, when undressing, that his brother was a lunatic for supporting a couple of young beggars

gars in such affluence, and inveighed bitterly against the haughty demeanour of Davison, who seemed to consider himself, he said, as doing the honours of his father's house in the entertainment of a transient visiter; but that if he (his Lordship) did not fail in his politics, the young spark would soon find dependent, very slippery ground, and become glad to cut his way to preferment with his sword in the army, or with his silver tongue in the church, or no matter how, provided Davison Hall was once fairly clear of him.

THE Major confessed his chagrin and disappointment to Mrs. Wellon, before he went to bed; I hoped, said he, in despite of our opposite educations, to have embraced a brother, but I encountered only a man of fashion, whose politeness chills me, and whose ostentation puts me in a fever; in a word, Wellon, the ague fit into which he has thrown me will never leave me until  
his

his departure from hence; infomuch, that if he could look into my heart, and have mercenary views upon me, he might make ample demands, and have them all honoured, on my purse, by way of compromise for the restoration of my lost comforts; for, according to his behaviour, the lowest subject in his Majesty's dominions would be a more eligible relation to me than a Lord. Besides, continued the Major, though I hope they perceive it not, he has the presumption to treat the dear children with a disdain that goes to my heart. Does he suppose?—but I will not be premature in my conclusions; he may, my good and kind Wellon, improve upon acquaintance.

MRS. WELLON, with all the rhetoric she was mistress of, encouraged this opinion; many persons she said, who, to her certain knowledge, were cold and forbidding, (not that she meant to insinuate that was the case with his Lordship) had turned  
out.

out very agreeable persons when they came to throw off the reserve of strangers; and she did therefore in no degree doubt but his future interviews with Lord Paisley would be more to his satisfaction.

HEIGH ho! sighed the Major; you are a good woman, Wellon, said he, and see every thing in the most favourable light; but take my word for it, a weak head and an unfeeling heart have their value much rather lessened than increased by an acquaintance with them.

HEIGH ho! sighed Mrs. Wellon, no reply to this observation of her master suggesting itself that she thought fit for his ear.

So, tapping at Jemima's door as she passed along the lobby to her own chamber to wish her a good night, being not a little curious to know how her pulse beat upon



upon the subject of her master's discontent, she was desired to walk in, and was most cordially received.

BUT the result of her midnight visit to this young lady, must be reserved for a succeeding chapter.

## CHAPTER X.

A<sup>S</sup> SUSPICION.

WELL Madam, said Mrs. Wellon to Jemima, how do you like your new uncle?

He is Major Jones' brother, replied the young Lady, and as such, has a right to my best attentions.

True Madam, said Wellon, and you are not, moreover, at confession; so of course, added she smiling, need not speak your private opinion of him; but I am confident there is too much sympathy between your heart and my master's, for the one to approve what the other condemns.

And does Major Jones! cried Jemima; and yet, Mrs. Wellon, it as ill becomes me

to inquire, as it would you to disclose his secret sentiments of so near a relation. As for Rosina, she conceives herself under no restraints, and has therefore very frankly declared that she does not like his Lordship's person, it is so lean; or his voice, it is so finikin; or his dress, it is so frippery; or his look, it is so staring: in a word, she has dissected him from head to foot without hesitation or mercy, and I have been so wicked as to laugh at her openness and simplicity.

ROSINA, replied Mrs. Wellon, knows no language but the language of nature, but I wish she would learn in some small degree to be a respecter of persons; his Lordship is a man of rank and fortune, and the brother of *her* and my master, and as such ought not to be mentioned lightly or irreverently.

Now, dear Madam Wellon, cried Rosina,  
I must

I must crave your pardon; for, bating that I said his Lordship's Honour was a little lankish and leanish, I only talked of his *varlet* as I call him, who, I will uphold it, is as arrant a knave as e're a Mr. Levet in the kingdom, and in that faith I will live and die.

WHAT can he have said or done to you, Rosina, to give you so shocking an opinion of him? asked Jemima.

WHY, as to his speeches, your Ladyship and Madam Wellon know what they have been like, all flim flam and foppery; but moreover than all that, he is painted up to the eyes and perfumed, and swears just as Mr. Levet did when he made off from the toll-gate; and he wanted to squeeze my hand between both his, so I gave him a great push, when, what should happen, but down to the ground tumbles one of his eye brows, which hastily picking up, he turned him round whilst he

he fixed it on, and thinks me, I warrant you, such a nincompoop that I should neither notice nor tell of his tricks.

A FALSE eye brow and a painted face! cried Jemima; my dear Mrs. Wellon how do you feel on hearing this strange account? can we, ought we to believe it?

I WOULD give worlds, replied Mrs. Wellon, to know the truth or falsehood of it.

O! IF that is the case, said Rosina, you need only bid me, the next time he wants to be free with me, to give him a box on the ear, and I will so manage it as to strip him of one or both of his pieces of artifice before your face.

I SHALL not sleep in peace, said Jemima, whilst he remains at the Hall. And, on reflection, is it not very remarkable that Lord Paisley should alone have chose to visit his brother

brother after Levet's elopement and villainy? what will become of us, how ardently I shall wish to speak to Mr. Davison!

WISH to speak with his Honour! cried Rosina; and who would not wish to speak with his Honour if wishing would do them any good? And yet with all his fortune, and all his—I know not what to call it—handsomeness—any body may speak to him that pleases; ay, and get both a kind and a civil answer in return, as I myself, to use Madam Wellon's words, have tried and proved.

JEMIMA and Mrs. Wellon looked at each other.

AND when, pray, said Mrs. Wellon, did you ever attempt such a thing as talking with Mr. Davison?

It was all by the merest chance, returned  
Rosina;



Rosina; it was the day his Honour came to the Hall, before you all returned from your airing: and Lord help me, I made so poor a hand of it, that there was I on my bended knees, an please you, two or three times, and my eyes running over with tears, before I could get away from him.

FROM Mr. Davison, cried Jemima, get away from Mr. Davison! when, where did he detain you?

HE!—no no, replied the simple girl, he scorned your detainings, like a noble and brave Squire as he is; but I—I, your Ladyship, would not be said nay, or consent to leave him.

WORSE and worse, said Jemima smiling, finding it was only one of her civil blunders, so then you made him hear what you had to say to him, whether he would or no?

NOT

Not so, neither, your Ladyship, replied Rosina, for he would have me to speak out, and said, (O dearest me! and yet it was very true too when one comes to consider it,) that he was a friend of the family's, and that I might therefore tell him all.

And what! for heaven's sake, demanded Jemima, what was the all you did tell him?

Why only as how, replied Rosina, that the Major's Honour meant to have a little sport with him, and make him believe as how your Ladyship and him were lawful brother and sister; whereas, said I, the sum total is, that you are no more the same flesh and blood than you and I are, said I, and to be sure no two things on earth can be more unlike than your Honour and such a poor simple girl as I am.

But how came you to kneel to him, asked Mrs. Wellon, looking archly at Jemima.

WHY

WHY, I popped down to save myself from his Honour's fury; he said I had pulled his heart out, because I mentioned your Ladyship's being ran away with by a Parson; and then talked for all the world like a distracted madman, so at last he ran staring and swearing out of the parlour, only bidding me not tell I had seen him.

AND where did you first meet with him Rosina?

AT the Hall door, to be sure, replied she, and he would have whisked by me like a shot, if I had not stepped forward to make my reverence, and dropped a word or two that made him curious.

WILL you Mrs. Wellon, said Jemima, have the goodness to sleep with me to night? and Rosina, with your door open into my apartment, shall occupy your bed.—Mrs. Wellon most readily consented to oblige her, and Rosina, wishing her Lady and good  
Madam

Madam Wellon much sleep and a happy waking, went to bed as per orders.

How much light, said Jemima, Mrs. Wellon, has this silly girl thrown, by her communicativeness, upon Davison's conduct! I was much afraid his transition from the brother to the lover was too rapid and too instantaneous to accord critically with what I had hoped and believed were his principles; but I have the pleasure to find he was apprised of our plots, and my heart is now relieved from every secret pain; and Mr. Davison will henceforth be trebly dear to me.

I AM glad, replied Mrs. Wellon, that your grand object is not (as I apprehended) this simple girl's suspicions of the valet, but the acquittal of Mr. Davison's conduct from every shade, which I confess to be a highly important point; for I will now acknowledge to you that Major Jones, in the fulness of his satisfaction, did not appear to me quite so explicit as to authorize the young gentleman

gentleman to mention you in the glowing terms he did to me, before he had received my testimonials of your non-relationship; but now all is cleared up, and I trust you have not one demur to your perfect happiness in store.

No, Mrs. Wellon, said Jemima, my lips shall henceforth confess with all due propriety what my heart feels; of his tender attachment I cannot doubt, and his esteem has long been ensured to me, and I will flatter myself that we three, for you, Mrs. Wellon, my long proved friend, are an able, an essential auxilliary, shall be found an overmatch for the machinations of iniquity, though the arch fiend himself should be actually lodged under our roof.

So then you desire no farther conversation with me, said Mrs. Wellon, on any subject.

Not, replied Jemima, if I know myself;  
VOL. I. I but

but it was necessary to my repose I should speak what I have done respecting Davison, it sat so near my heart.

THEY immediately went to bed and slept till morning.



## CHAPTER XI.

## A PLEASURABLE SURPRISE.

ROSINA coming down stairs some time before Mrs. Wellon, and having, moreover, by keeping a sharp look out, as she called it, convinced herself that the valets were really and truly a made up face, was unable to contain her intelligence; so, throwing herself for the purpose in Mr. Davison's way, she very fairly told him she believed he must be a highwayman that was come to rob and murder them all.

MR. DAVISON was startled, and a variety of circumstances crowded upon his recollection at once, insomuch that he had no doubt of Lord Paisley's visit being brought about by Levet's contrivance; as also that he himself was there in person, to aid and

abet whatever plans his Lordship's interest might prompt him to adopt.

My good Rosina, said he, therefore be upon your guard; for if what you have told me be true, if you only take care to avoid that artful man's conversation all will yet be well; but should he once imagine we suspect him, the worst you can fear will infallibly come to pass.

ROSINA, trembling, promised to be all observance; and he repeated his assurances, that by keeping council she would enable him to fight the wicked wretch at his own weapons, and defeat him; and think then, Rosina, said he, what thanks, what rewards you will be entitled to, for preserving us all, and securing your own safety into the bargain.

AH! your Honour, cried Rosina, name not a thing of such little worth; could my poor life preserve his Honour's the Major's life,

life, or her Ladyship's Miss Jemima's, or your precious life, Sir, I would say something to it, but those joyful matters are not for one like me to perform; but all I can do I will do, and so if silence and secrecy will be of use, the grave itself shall not be more silent, nor the dead more secret than me.

MR. DAVISON thought it right to acquaint the Major with what he had heard. He told the tale, however, out of respect to his Lordship, in the plainest and simplest terms.

BUT those terms were sufficient to make the Major exclaim, I smell a rat, and we must work by stratagem. Let the women, continued he, be unalarmed, and leave the event to Providence, for never did I see the righteous forsaken. And this great man's little conduct will justify me to the world (I want no justification to my own heart) for cutting him off with a shilling;

so, effectually, where he is seeking to injure another, will he weave the web of his own destruction. He is indeed the second edition of his worthy father.

JEMIMA was astonished in the morning, on her attempting to open the discovery on Davison's knowledge, to find he was previously acquainted with the affair; but, placing it to his superiour discernment, had no idea that Rosina had anticipated her information.

LORD PAISLEY, on his descending from his chamber, appeared to be quite a new man. He caressed Davison on the one hand, and was all attention and complaisance to Jemima on the other: they were models, he told the Major, for the pencil and the chisel; and had they lived in earlier times, would have been constituted monuments of perfection, by the skill of both those artists, to latest ages.

THIS

THIS compliment had the air of a true opinion, from being delivered in the young people's absence, and the Major began to waver in the unfavourable sentiments he entertained of his Lordship; his fatigue from his journey, and his unacquaintance with the amiable children, had caused him, perhaps, to appear to disadvantage; and such was the ingenuousness and generosity of his nature, that he longed to beg pardon for his prejudgment.

JEMIMA was desired to display her musical talents. Her harp was newly strung, and her best exertions called forth. She looked, his Lordship said, a divinity, and had, he solemnly averred, the finger of a master.

DAVISON exhibited also, on the organ, with abundant applause;—and it seemed as if doubt and jealous fear was totally renounced by the whole company.

Two footmen who played the French horn were ordered into an adjoining room to bear their part in the concert. The Major asked if his Lordship's valet could assist; but was told it was not in his power, nor did he condescend to mix with the servants of the family, who were one and all permitted to crowd into the room, with the horns, and enjoy the performance.

ROSINA was in extacies; she danced, she sung in an under voice, and beat time with wonderful exactness to every change of strain. She would, if she lived, she declared, learn to play upon the harp, it had so touching a sound; and protested his Lordship did not appear half so ugly in her eyes, as he had done theretofore, since she found he loved music; for music, continued she, softens the hardest heart, and fills up the wrinkles of the crabbedest countenance; insomuch that he, meaning his Lordship, at this moment looks altogether smug and well-  
liking



liking, that in the morning had a face rivelled up like a fallen leaf.

I NO longer wonder, brother, said Lord Paisley, at the delight you take in the society of your young friends, it is purchasing happiness at a cheap rate to receive such exchanges as I have been witness of for acts of common kindness to the deserving; and though I must despair, added he, of attaining the same eminence with yourself in their esteem and affections, I from this hour announce myself a candidate for the second vacancy in their hearts.

THE Major nodded at his children, as much as to say, see how your perfections have subdued this man of fashion's prejudices; he is unable longer to be blind and insensible to your manyfold endowments; and he shall have full credit with us for all the overflowings of his corrected judgment and opinion.

THERE is one infallible test rule, said Davison to Jemima, to which I will speedily bring all his Lordship's fine professions in our favour; and that is, by telling him his presence impedes our union, and entreating his intercession with the Major for its immediate solemnization. If he comply with my request I will believe his professions sincere, but if he even hesitate, I shall mark him down for what I first conceived him to be, my enemy. You, my lovely girl, continued Davison, may, by your softness, sweetness, and numberless winning graces, bind him to your interest; but be assured, if his heart have a flaw in it, I am the sacrifice his pride, his avarice, and his other unworthy passions will ardently demand.

AND can you, cried Jemima, imagine for a moment, that any scheme of services he could devise for me in which you are not included would be accepted by me! No,  
Davison,

Davison, we will share each other's fate; your enemies shall at all points be deemed my enemies, and your friends have a first place on my list of friendships; nor shall any human means or human power in this article disunite us.

LORD PAISLEY's eye was for ever upon them, and they could not help mutually observing, he always contrived to interrupt their little chat with each other, however the rest of the company were talking in parties; he has envy in his composition, said Davison, if he have not a softer passion, for he surveys us askance, as the devil did the first pair in paradise, at all times when the intention, either directly or indirectly, is alluded to of our being rendered the dearest relatives; his soul is therefore evidently formed of corroding particles, nor will he of course fail to be a self-tormenter, however incapable he may prove of tormenting us.

THE Major hearing no mention of his Lordship's departure, and wishing much to change the scene, talked of his Welch estate, and superb, as he was told, mansion, asking his brother if he could make it convenient to join in an excursion thereto.

To the antipodes, was this man of fashion's gallant answer, you may command me, Major. — I am a son of freedom, and of frolic too, if it fall in my way, and shall delight in an opportunity of visiting that romantic principality.

THIS gracious answer put the whole family in motion, Mrs. Wellon and Rosina were bid to hold themselves in readiness, and all was friendship and peace and confidence and joy; on which account the Major did violence to the impulse of his kind and hospitable temper, lest his brother should take exception at his conduct by not keeping open house a few days previous

ous to his journey from the Hall, that his humble friends and industrious tenants might participate the felicity of its inhabitants.

## CHAPTER XII.

## A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

ROSINA, with her young Lady's permission, wrote home to inform her father and mother of her approaching journey to London and to Wales, if they did not forbid it; and if they do, said she, it will be the finishing of us all, for I shall weep myself sick, and they will droop over me, and droop and droop as I grow worse, until, at your Ladyship's return, added she with inconceivable pathos, the poor Rosina will be found in her cold grave never to rise again in this world.

MAJOR JONES, on the report of the girl's distress, accompanied her artless lines with a present and letter to the old people from himself, to assure them his own Jemima should not be taken better care of than  
their



their child, and that he would pledge his honour to restore her as happy and as innocent as she entered his family.

THREE days having elapsed, and no answer received from the toll-gate keeper, Rosina's attendance on her beloved young Lady became very doubtful, for the Major declared he could not suffer her wishes to be indulged at the expence of her parents' peace.

THE fourth day however unravelled the mystery of their silence. — The good company at the Hall were all assembled in the drawing room, and unbending according to their several tastes, when in a moment the door flew open, and Rosina, with all the wildness of despair, rushed in — attempted to speak, with uplifted hands in the attitude of supplication to her young Lady, but failed in the attempt, and sank lifeless at her feet.

MAJOR

MAJOR JONES, Jemima, and Davison, had all their humane feelings in instant alarm; and the latter lifted her from the ground, and laid her upon one of the sofas, whilst his Lordship, in great confusion and surprise, remonstrated against such attentions to low people — such unbefitting, such levelling attentions; and, advancing to the bell, advised that one of the footmen should take her to *her* proper place.

THE Major turned round, and with looks of displeasure opposed the ringing of the bell, which plainly spoke his disapprobation of his brother's conduct in its utmost latitude; and the girl at length opening her eyes, was covered with the loveliest blushes (even his frigid Lordship confessed) nature ever bestowed on an earthly being.

THE Major recovering himself, for he had had a thousand horrid apprehensions concerning the cause of Rosina's behaviour and

its

its consequences, and calling for Mrs. Wellon, begged her, if possible, to explain what they had seen.

MRS. WELLON hesitated for a reply, when the Major bade her speak and fear not; for there was no condition or situation that should excuse an outrage upon innocence, or a violation of the hospitality of his mansion.

I BELIEVE then, Sir, said Mrs. Wellon, it will be best, after hearing the little I know of the business, to refer you to the parties, who are anxiously waiting in my parlour for the honour of an audience; they have somewhat, they profess, to relate, that concerns yourself, Sir, his Lordship, and this young girl. In a word, it is Rosina's father accompanied by a sick gentlewoman, and his wife; I imagine the poor thing supposed they were come to take her back to their cottage residence, but they assure me far otherwise, and entreat you will condescend

descend to admit them into your presence.

I AM astonished, brother, said his Lordship, that, by your most singular accessibility to these kind of people, you will encourage them to be thus impertinent; what Canterbury Tale however you may be prevailed upon to listen to, I shall never give myself the trouble to inquire; I am unknown and wholly unconnected in this country, and no toll-gate keeper in the universe shall make me so ridiculous as to rob me of one five minutes' time, under whatever artful pretext he may solicit that condescension.

You forget, brother, said the Major, that in England the meanest subject, if injured or oppressed, has claims to the consideration of the greatest men in the kingdom; nay, Sovereigns themselves have not disdained, on an equally trivial appearing occasion with the present, to listen to the voice of humble complaining; and I must therefore ask it as a  
favour

favour to myself, that my house may be rendered a tribunal of justice, or a sanctuary of mercy, as the case may require; nor one individual be turned from my door unheard, and if possible, unredressed.

HIS Lordship bowed assent, and Mrs. Wellon was ordered to bring the good people in.

THE father of Rosina stood forth, and, addressing the Major, told him he hoped he would pardon a plain old man, if his words were not altogether such as might fall agreeably on his ear; for, said he, when the heart is full, and the story a dishonourable one, without the help of education or the aid of polite customs, a man will be in danger of uttering what he would not wish to utter; as truth itself may be told too harshly.

THE Major begged he would be quite at his ease, and let the facts he wished to communicate

municate plead his apology for whatever expressions he thought best calculated to paint them in their just colourings.

It is now, said the old man, (having made a grateful bow for the Major's kindness,) turned of sixteen years since my dame one fine Summer's evening, was called upon by a gentle voice to open our cottage door, and let a helpless stranger in.

My dame inquired who and whence the stranger was; but was answered in such a soft tone, she could not distinguish a word; and our cottage, an please you, standing on the unfrequented side of a heath, she was not fond, when alone, of letting unknown persons in; accordingly, running up a few steps, she opened a window, and beheld that gentlewoman, (pointing to the poor sick creature, who by the Major's orders was seated behind them, supported by the mother of Rosina,) then a young, lovely, and well dressed person, who besought her  
to



to take compassion upon her, for that she was fainting with fatigue, and had lost her way.

My wife, continued the gate keeper, who every one knows is a good natured harmless woman, made no more bones of the matter than flying down, assisting her to enter the cottage, and giving her a glass of home-made cordial for her refreshment.

THE poor gentlewoman revived; but, sorrow instantly succeeding to sickness, she wept, till my wife's heart bled for her, tho' unknowing of the cause of her tears; and she was put to bed unable to give an account of herself.

HER clothes, as I have before observed, were good, and in her pocket, as she would shew my wife, were some guineas; but she wanted no such spur to be kind to her. And when I left the toll-house, as is usual on that road about ten o'clock at night, I had the surprise

surprise to find my family increased, and received the few particulars I have now set before you.

I MADE the poor gentlewoman, continued Rosina's father, a little broth, and she felt her spirits and strength return; so, begging we would both of us draw near, and while she was able to tell it, hear her story. She related what I am almost afraid to relate to the noble company I am now in.

ROSINA was detained by Mrs. Wellon on the couch, that worthy woman understanding she was a party some how or other concerned in this melancholy tale; and the poor weak and apparently almost dying gentlewoman had hartshorn held to her by the cottager, to keep, if possible, she said, her life and soul a little longer together.

THE Major bade Rosina's father 'go on, and assure himself of justice, if in his power

to

to do justice on the occasion; but at all events that protection should be his.

WHAT opinion you will entertain of me, cried the poor gentlewoman, said the old man resuming his story, I am at a loss to conjecture, but though appearances are cruelly against me, I am not unworthy; I have been deserted, not dishonoured; I am the lawful, though unacknowledged wife of a man of fashion and fortune, and very near becoming a mother.

LORD PAISLEY got up, and begged his brother to disregard the forged recital; for that he was well aware of the business, and could disprove every syllable of it.

THE Major was petrified; no, my Lord, replied he, with firmness, every man in his turn is the rule in my house, the story was begun by your permission, and shall be concluded under my patronage, when you will find

find me equally ready to give you a hearing.

HIS Lordship sat down haughtily reluctant, nor could conceal either his anger or his discomposure; and the father of Rosina, deriving new courage from the Major's treatment of him, went on.

MY father, said the sick Lady, was unfortunately bred to the Church; a servitor in the same college with the nobleman whose name I will give you hereafter, and became his tutor.

OUR little dwelling was a paradise both in beauty and felicity, until his Lordship entered it; for from that fatal hour he pretended to fall in love with me, and set such allurements before my young mind that could not fail to captivate and attach it to his wish and honour; the purest honour was his eternal theme.— He represented his father as an austere and lofty man, and his  
uncle's

uncles as misers; to which of them therefore, said he to my relations, can I apply with any prospect of success to authorize an union of the heart? But if your daughter's love in any degree equals mine, if not my rank and title are her sole and immediate objects, she shall privately become my wife, and the first moment it is in my power I will with pride and pleasure proclaim her such to the whole world.

My father and mother, continued the poor Lady, were at length satisfied; we ought to *ask*, since he could *offer*, no more; and we were married, having the bans previously published in two village Churches, and he was received, though secretly, in our family as my husband.

His stipend, added she, was small, consequently what he allowed me, very inconsiderable; but it was enough for obscurity: and when lowness of spirits, as it sometimes would, stole upon me, I would revive my-

self by a childish anticipation of the transition I was soon to experience, and should have much rather doubted my own existence, than the faith and truth of my wedded Lord. — But the hour of melancholy conviction, said Rosina's father, the poor Lady with streaming eyes told us, in a short time arrived; a general election harassed her worthy father out of his life, in supporting a friend of his Lordship; and her mother was deprived of the use of one side and her reason by a frightful stroke of the palsy, in which deplorable condition she was become a pensioner upon the benevolence of her dead husband's parishioners; this hard-natured nobleman not enabling her to do a child's part, in an hour of such extremity, by the kindest of parents.

FINDING how matters were with me, continued the Lady, said Rosina's father, I wrote to inform my husband, that proper care might be taken of me, and the birth of my child duly ascertained. — But he wrote



wrote not back; his barbarous caution incited him to give my letter a personal answer: down he came like a thief in the night, and in a few words opened his resolution upon my knowledge; never, never to own me or my unborn infant, advising me to make the best of it.

I saw, said the Lady, and felt his power; one half guinea was all the money I had in the world, and my story of such a nature as required proofs to support its credibility I could not in my helpless circumstances obtain. I moreover found, by some words he let drop, that he had tampered with the parish clerk at each church; and I was sensible the curate who pronounced the bans at one of the churches was gone to Ireland, and my dear father's testimony cut off by the hand of death. I therefore, in tenderness to the unborn, and as a last desperate act of self preservation, yielded to the terms he offered me; an annuity of fifty pounds a year, and fifty pounds

in consideration of my approaching necessities in advance, and to have my child, if it lived, he said, well provided for, with every happy chance in its favour, provided it proved amiable and obedient.

THE air of sincerity which accompanied every word she uttered, said the old man, rendered us her fast friends; we fitted up, to the best of our abilities, a chamber for her occupation, and there, under our thatched roof her lovely infant first saw the light, and she herself, as well as the sweet babe, had every appearance of doing well; but happening unfortunately to take cold, by her over desire to spare my wife's fatigue in attending upon her, a fever ensued, and she lost her senses: then, from a state of raging madness, she sunk into such an alarming melancholy that we were forced to have her removed to a place where proper care could be taken of her; his Lordship paying the fifty pounds a year very punctually to the persons with whom she was situated, and  
ten

ten pounds a year to us for the child's board, to be brought up, he told us, in happy simplicity as our own; that, by avoiding the foolish ambition of her mother, she might escape the misfortunes her mother's ambition had plunged her into.

IN this state, continued the old man, things remained till within these three last days; when, to a surprise we never expected to recover, the poor gentlewoman, nearly as ill as you now behold her, was set down by a waggon at the toll-gate I keep, and, on making herself known, conveyed by me to our cottage in my arms.

AND O! benovolent minded Sir, cried the old man, addressing the Major, what iniquity I have to unfold! — All the letters we had received to inform us that her disorder was unabated, and that she was totally unfit, and they believed ever would be so, to leave the house she was in, were mere falsehoods and deceptions; for it seems her

reason was restored to her at the end of a few weeks, and she had been detained an absolute prisoner without the use of pen ink or paper, and shut in from every human intercourse except with the creatures of the family.

HOWEVER, as murder will out, she at last was so happy as to meet with a kind-tempered honest young woman, one of the servants newly hired, who, pitying her sorrows, and moreover hoping to be well rewarded whenever she became her Ladyship, opened her prison doors at the hour she was certain a waggon bound for our road would pass, and she arrived safe in the manner I have related.

HER child, to which she herself gave the name of Rosina, (here Mrs. Wellon was obliged to exert all her strength to keep Rosina from pushing forward) we told her, said the old man, was at Davison-Hall, with every particular which led to her introduction

duction there ; and that, as we were growing old, and could make no provision for her, and her bringing up such as would enable her in few places to provide for herself, we would advise her, if she could reconcile herself thereto, to let her remain with so worthy a family until something better could be done for her.

SHE paused, said the old man, she wept ; I must however see her, cried she ; and both my dame and I thinking it quite reasonable a mother should see her own child, it was settled I should come over and fetch her for a day or two to our cottage.

I HAD prepared, continued the old man, for my journey, when Rosina's letter, by the mention of Lord Paisley's name, and telling us he was her master's brother, discovered all ; for Lord Paisley is our Rosina's father, and you, generous and kind Sir, are her uncle : (Rosina wept on Mrs. Wellon's shoulder) and I am persuaded, added the ho-



nest toll-gate man, that though his high bred Lordship has shewn he has a heart of steel, your heart has the blessed feelings of humanity, and will not cast off so near and dear a relation. — I have only farther to say, that the poor sick Lady, believing she had but a short time to live, and protesting anxiety and uncertainty would hasten her out of the world, conjured me with so much earnestness to let her be conveyed here, and to have the whole affair talked over in her presence, that there was no refusing her; after which she affirmed she should only have to close her eyes in peace, and be heard of no more.

FORBID it heaven, cried the Major, happiness and length of days I hope will still await her; my children with alacrity will engage in the work of soothing, of supporting her, and her establishment, as well as that of her and our Rosina, shall be my care. Come then my Lord, said this noble minded man to his abashed brother, come and  
testify



testify in this one instance, that, with the form, you have the nature of a man; speak comfort to your broken-hearted wife, and do justice to your lovely offspring.

HIS Lordship approached, calling his base and unnatural conduct by the soft name of the sin of fashionable prejudices and giddy youth, confessed the truth of all that had been related respecting himself, asked the Lady to forgive him, and was turning to embrace Rosina, when Lady Paisley sighed deeply, laid her hand upon her beating heart, (joy having been too powerful for its feeble pulsation) and expired.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## AN ARTLESS HARANGUE.

MAJOR JONES caught up the terrified Rosina in his arms and conveyed her out of the room, leaving his Lordship to the care of the company; Mrs. Wellon following, without ceremony, to give her assistance if wanted.

I CANNOT behold him more, said the Major, either he or I therefore must immediately depart this house; but I hope a sense of shame, of remorse, will save us the necessity of telling him as much; for this dear girl's sake, I hope it, lest he should, in his wrath, deprive me of her.

MR. DAVISON knocked gently at the door; his Lordship, said he, has ordered his carriage, and begs you will excuse his personal

personal adieus; he cannot, he affirms, stand the melancholy catastrophe; therefore hopes to see you again at some more collected period.

IT is very well, said the Major, I freely and frankly remit him his ceremonials, and shall as seldom as possible remember I have a brother.

ROSINA was speechless with wonder, with grief, with terror, and with joy; and the Major perceiving the state of her feelings, said he would leave her to Wellon's kind care, and retire to compose his own spirits, which stood greatly in need of composure.

BUT what thinks our Jemima of all this, asked he of Davison; she thinks, returned Davison, you have discovered a treasure, and will rejoice to prove her gratitude to her most generous benefactor, by devoting all her talents to your lovely niece's service.

THE Major left the apartment leaning upon Davison's arm; is she not a beautiful girl, said he, and how astonishing therefore it is that her innocence has escaped contamination; but we will henceforth, my boy, shelter her from every baleful breath; and that my fortune is sufficiently ample to enable me to do her justice, without robbing my other children, gives me unspeakable satisfaction.

O MADAM WELLON, said Rosina, you must have the goodness to teach me how to behave myself; I am so unfit for my new state, that I shall do nothing but blush for myself from morning to night, from knowing every one else must blush for me,

IN the first place, replied Mrs. Wellon, you must alter your mode of addressing me; I can be Madam Wellon no longer from your lips. I would not instruct you to be proud, but there are certain rules of behaviour you must now conform to, and by  
duly

duly honouring yourself, avoid dishonouring your noble relations.

MY poor mother, said Rosina is no more, the grave would not spare her to me — O! had she been spared, she should have found the simple Rosina a kind child, for kindheartedness is not a lesson to be taught, is it my dear Madam; but as much mine, though born and brought up on a heath side, as if I had had all the learning on earth; there is one thing I could have wished, however, above all the rest, the fine young Gentleman Mr. Davison, would he had turned out my brother.

HE will, said Mrs. Wellon, be your sincere and affectionate friend, he will be the husband of your beloved Miss Jemima, and is equally dear, I will be so bold as to say, with yourself, to your uncle's heart.

MY uncle, cried Rosina, merciful Providence! how shall I ever bring myself to call



call so great and rich a man uncle; or quietly submit to sit down to the table at which my late fellow servants are to wait, and to be dressed like a Lady, and to—to—but my mother is dead, said she, within this last half hour! known to me, and dead, and you will perhaps, Madam—(Mrs. Wellon gave her a look of remembrance) well, Mrs. Wellon then, think I forget her, when I am only trying to keep my mind easy, that I may not, by throwing myself ill, give more and more trouble to this good family.

I UNDERSTAND your motive, replied Mrs. Wellon, and it shews both your good sense and good-mindedness, for we should never willingly afflict our friends, or indeed any human being over whose feelings we may have power; for such conduct is both cruel and wicked, and would ill become your age and sex.—As to the other circumstances you have mentioned, continued Mrs. Wellon, you must do yourself the justice to recollect you are only restored



stored to your birthright claims, not suddenly lifted up from a mean degree into undue grandure, the last of which changes is difficult to support with propriety and dignity; but the first, after a little time, when the surprise wears off, awakens unimagina-  
ble sentiments in the breast, sentiments that could never otherwise have been called forth, and words to express them will soon occur to you by being rendered familiar to your ear. So let me prevail upon you, added Mrs. Wellon, to shake off all this shyness and withdrawingness from your friends, and to prepare yourself to give them the pleasure of your unembarrassed company.

AH! dearest Madam, cried Rosina, how you talk at your ease, you who have lived all your days with the wealthy, and have had a gentlewoman's education; whereas, I shall not know what to do with my hands or my feet, and must have time upon time to feel my present condition real, and forget my late servitude.

FINDING

FINDING her prejudices unconquerable, Mrs. Wellon was obliged to report the ill success of her eloquence to the Major.

SHE has, replied he, an ingenuousness of heart, and a lively sensibility, that promise to render her a most amiable woman; we will send her, if we should find it necessary, to Mrs. Hillman's school, and she will soon wear off the rust that is now so painful to her; or what would be still more agreeable to me, call in that worthy teacher's assistance, to polish her under our own eye, for I am unwilling to die in any one's debt; and I owe her great and hitherto unreturned obligations

JEMIMA visited her young friend, who, by an involuntary impulse, rose to receive her; keep your seat, my dear girl, said she tenderly, it is not customary to treat family visitants with ceremony.

BUT from me, Madam, said Rosina,  
surely

surely from me it is right, at least till I can *forget*, I do not mean, but properly *rejoice*, at remembering my first sight of you at the toll-house. — Had my mother, Madam, but lived!

SHE was, replied Jemima, my dear, past all recovery before her enlargement from the wicked house in which she was immured; prolonging her days would therefore have only been prolonging her sufferings, and you, I am certain, are too good and gentle to wish to purchase any self-gratification at so high a price; she moreover died happy, and is now an angel in heaven; can your filial affection ask more?

I AM, replied Rosina, all whirl and doubt in my own breast, and ask myself every instant if I am really and truly Rosina from the heath side; but I see I tease you, Madam, and will try to be cheerful: what cannot be cured my good old father (let me me still call him) used to say must be endured;

endured; and so, Madam, tell me, is the false-eye-browed gentleman, as well as — she stopped — and was quite at a loss what to add.

HE is gone, my dear, said Jemima, with Lord Paisley; — and will, I hope, cried Rosina, never return. The other — again she stopped.

MY good and amiable Rosina, said Jemima, let parents act what part they may, children must perform their duty.

WHEN my poor mother is buried, returned she, *may* be —

No *may* bes, said Jemima, you will, you must treat him as your father. Your mother pardoned him, Rosina, with her last breath, and think you (with a child's duty superadded) you have a right to cherish displeasure against him?

THAT

THAT is true, Madam, replied Rosina, I feel it is a true observation, and had I words I would tell you how I feel it. But I have every thing to learn; to walk, to talk, so unlike my cottage ways, that I fear I shall never compass it, helped as I may be by all my kind friends.

DAVISON being told Jemima was with Rosina, who was much better, took the liberty, he said, to join them; but so overawed was the poor girl by *his* presence, and so mortified at the recollection of the foolish conduct he had been witness to, that she hung down her head, and remained profoundly silent, notwithstanding all his efforts to encourage her to look up; and at length, in order to relieve her, took leave and joined the Major.

JEMIMA, assisted by Mrs. Wellon, gave directions for Lady Paisley's funeral; and the Major would not permit the cottagers to return. We will fit up one of the lodges  
for



for their residence, said he, and gain a couple of valuable neighbours, whilst we are in some small degree compensating their virtues and their worth: it would be inhuman to separate them from *their*, because she proves to be *our* Rosina.

DAVISON soon after found the Major walking about his own apartment in irrepressible agitation. What a change, my child, said he, is here! this Hall was once, as Jemima emphatically called it, the dwelling of peace, of sincerity, of candour, and of kindness: what is it now, however, become! the mansion of premature death, the spot of revealed, of convicted villainy!! — But I will be calm and thankful this Lord is gone, and think only of my children, my *three* children! Shall it not be so, Davison?

I CAN answer for Jemima, Sir, replied Davison, as well as myself, that the epithet  
of



of *brother* and *sister* in that instance will be pronounced by us with delight.

NOT badly hinted, said the Major; Lord Paisley is indeed gone, and I well remember his presence was the only bar to your intended nuptials; but I am certain, I need not make a question of it, that the house of death is, in all our opinions, ill-suited to a nuptial occasion.

NAME it not, said Davison! no breach of decorum shall profane our hallowed union; but at the same time, Sir, though I had no intention to give you a memorandum of my promised hopes at this juncture, I would not wish you to suppose me capable of losing the traces thereof in my heart.

WE all want a little winding up, said the Major, after the violent shock our nerves have sustained; and therefore I have some thoughts of taking you to Bath. What say you to such a trip, Davison?

I SHOULD

I SHOULD like it of all things, Sir, replied Davison. Then take the trouble, said the Major, to communicate it to those it concerns as a settled purpose. Wellon will take care of the Ladies, and we shall all soon be ready to depart.

THE Major put his family in mourning suitable to the loss of a sister, and ordered a monument to be erected in the church, as a tribute, in his name, to her amiable memory.

AND all things being in readiness, with Davison in his own chaise, and the Ladies, with Mrs. Wellon, in a coach and four, they bade adieu to the Hall, and arrived safe at Bath without encountering one incident worth adverting to.

But when arrived, the Major gave them a no less kind than agreeable surprise; for, having wrote to Mrs. Hillman's to borrow Miss Vincent the teacher for a few months, and

and intreating she would set off immediately for Bath, she was ready to be presented to Jemima on her alighting from the carriage. And having had a private conference with the Major, (on the chapter, no doubt, of liberal recognition and rewards,) was publicly desired to make the improvement of Rosina's manners her care; for much tender and diligent attention, said the Major, do we owe the dear girl, for being so long robbed of her due claims and situation in life.

ROSINA looked her gratitude; but taking Jemima aside on the instant, besought her to teach her, secretly, to play backgammon; that she might be enabled, some evening or other when her uncle was without company, to prove to him that no lessons could be so valuable to her as those which put it in her power to show her grateful sense of his unbounded goodness to her.

J E M I M A

JEMIMA with pleasure undertook the task, and found her, as Mrs. Wellon prophesied would be the case, a most expert pupil.

## CHAPTER XIV.

SINCERITY IS IN SOME INSTANCES INCOMPATIBLE WITH PRUDENCE.

AT the rooms, where Miss Vincent always accompanied Rosina, the young ladies were much admired; and Rosina's obstinate taciturnity, when in public, obtained her the name of the silent beauty; however, being taken to the play, from her tender interest in every touching scene, she was thenceforward toasted, by the name of the weeping beauty, all over Bath and its environs.

THE play happened to be Philaster, and the parts well performed; Rosina's heart beat quick from the first opening of Bellario's character; as the plot advanced, she wept all his woes; and, in the conclusion, covered her face with her shawl to conceal her emotions.

THE Major was alarmed, Jemima started, and Miss Vincent was for begging to know the cause; when Davison, with great wisdom, took upon him to account for it, from the natural softness of Rosina's feelings, and the circumstance of its being the first dramatic piece she had ever seen represented; but the young Lady, on her return home, gave Mrs. Wellon a very different reason for her behaviour.

I HAVE been, said she, my dear and good Mrs. Wellon, frequently, so wretched you can have no notion, from the kind of love I bear Mr. Davison. That he is handsome it needs only eyes to be aware of; but he has a somewhat in his voice, his words, his air, so pleasant, that methought I could hear and see him for ever.

MRS. WELLON was frightened, but listened without reply.

I KNEW from the first, resumed she, he  
was



was to be Jemima's husband; wherefore then, I have often said to myself, do you, poor and simple Rosina, wherefore do you think of him thus; but harmless thoughts, again said I, can surely have no harm in them, I would not take him from Miss Jemima if she would leave him for that purpose, nor shall I love him less, when I behold him her happy husband.

THE matter, however, my dear Mrs. Wellon, was a kind of painful mystery to me, until I went to the play this night, where I have had it all explained; for just such love as the young Lady bears the Prince, (except the wrongness of dressing herself in boy's clothes) do I feel for Mr. Davison, and now find with delight it is both good and innocent. Mrs. Wellon looked at her, but replied not. For believe me, continued she, I could with pleasure fetch and carry letters and messages in his service, and speak in his highest praise to recommend him, if it was necessary, to her he loved, and

L 2

have

have my abundant reward in knowing I had served him: Can you then, Mrs. Wellon, condemn me?

FAR, far from it, Miss Rosina, replied Mrs. Wellon, angels themselves could not condemn you; but as the heart is sometimes rendered miserable by even its own virtues, I would advise you to dwell as little as possible, in your private thoughts, on the merits of Mr. Davison, and I will tell you why.

THE Major, Miss Rosina, my honoured master, will no doubt wish at some future time to match you with a worthy gentleman, a second Mr. Davison, with the concurrence of your own inclinations; but should such a gentleman discover, (and what is so quick sighted as love!) that Mr. Davison has so large a share of your approbation, might he not carry his conclusions farther, and suppose he had only the second place in your heart.

AND

AND honestly speaking, replied Rosina, that would be the very case; we cannot love all persons alike.

BUT consider, my dear young lady, said Wellon, how tenacious a lover or a husband would be of surpassing all others in your esteem. I would be sincere, replied Rosina, and tell them it was impossible.

YOU must not do any thing of the kind, said Mrs. Wellon; it would be highly improper.

MUST I then speak falsely! could that, Madam, be lawful or proper?

O! by no means, replied Mrs. Wellon; but there are some truths, and this is one of the number, that we are not obliged to speak; and I hope you will learn to distinguish between delicate concealments and artful dissimulation, and act accordingly.

NEVER, never, cried Rosina; black will always be black, and white, white, in my simple judgment: the shades between require powers I do not possess, to mark their difference; and as my heart, in spite of every caution, will sit upon my lips, it is in vain to tell me of rules and reason, and reason and rules; nature and truth are above them all, and though they may be blamed, cannot be shamed.

I WILL ask you one question, Miss Rosina, said Mrs. Wellon, and have done; Were Major Jones to touch upon this subject, would not your modesty suggest to you some innocent reserve, or would your frankness and sincerity tell him all?

I BEGIN to comprehend you, Madam, said Rosina. No, it would be impossible I could speak to any gentleman with the freedom I can to you; and especially whilst Mr. Davison is unmarried — lest — she could say no more.

THAT

THAT is exactly my meaning, replied Mrs. Wellon; you feel it, I perceive you do, and must therefore allow me to add, that though it is well known Mr. Davison is disposed of, or even after he is actually Miss Jemima's husband, were you to acknowledge your love for him to the man you could even consent to meet at the altar, that man would be very apt to think you would have preferred Mr. Davison to him.

I WILL be careful, said Rosina, to conduct myself as you advise; for you, Mrs. Wellon, are well informed, and wise, and good; and to me, that am motherless, a most peculiar friend.

JEMIMA and Davison were to go to the ball, but Rosina, not having taken above six lessons from her dancingmaster, did not chuse to accompany them; for, so gay a lady to be only a spectator, would, she said, create observation. And happening to hear that Miss Vincent and Mrs. Wellon



wished to see the company, she greatly promoted their absence; declaring she would make tea for her uncle herself, and do her best to entertain him during the whole evening.

THE Major was delighted with her improvements, and told her she would be, to the full, as accomplished and excellent a woman as her sister Jemima; for I wish you all three, added he, to consider yourselves as near and dear relatives, for are you not all of you the children of my tenderest affections.

AH! Sir, replied she, if the once poor, but now rich Rosina, rich in your favour and kindness, might be permitted to speak, she has somewhat to speak to you well worth your hearing.

SPEAK, my dear girl, cried the Major, and spare not; I would have you carry your heart in your hand, and neither treat  
me



me with ceremony nor disguise; for your true interest, and entire happiness, are the grand objects I have in view.

THEN Sir, said Rosina, why does not the marriage of Mr. Davison and his Jemima take place; I love them both, and could then look up to them both with sisterly regard; whereas, I at present constrain myself, lest Mr. Davison should mistake the affection I bear him — the friendship — the —

THE Major looked at her and sighed, recollecting what he had once experienced from a hopeless passion.

DEAREST child, said he, Davison is too worthy and too distinguishing a young man to misconstrue either the words or actions of innocence; but if you are certain his union with Jemima would promote your ease of manners, or satisfaction of mind, I will bring it forward. My poor sister's  
L 5 death,

death, and our consequential business, had quite chased my promise, my long since given and engaged promise to bestow them upon each other, out of my mind.

It would indeed, Sir, replied Rosina make me very happy ; for, as I told Mrs. Wellon, (but did not intend to tell you) I should then, like the lady in the play, rejoice to think — you know who I mean, Sir, the young lady in the play of Philaster.

SWEET, good child, the Major called her, may your peace of mind equal your good will!

I WAS once fearful, Sir, resumed Rosina, that all was not right in my heart ; but on seeing how Bellario acted, and being convinced that my feelings were just what she describes, except that I would not dress myself in boy's clothes on any account ; I resolved to mention to you what I have now done, and to beg that when you give  
Mr.

Mr. Davison to me for a brother, he may be given to me a married man also. And now if you please, I will challenge you at backgammon; Miss Jemima, but at my own request, Sir, has taught me how to beat you, and what would you have thought of your beyond-measure obliged Rosina, if, when she understood it was your favourite game, she had not shewn herself ambitious to know how to play it.

THE Major lost his money with delight, and extolled her adroitness. I can forgive your father every thing, said he, but withholding from me the exquisite pleasure of your infant endearments. —

EXCEPT, replied Rosina, the untimely death of my dear mother. — The Major shook his head and was silent.

BUT I was near forgetting another thing I have to say to you, resumed Rosina. To be sure Miss Vincent is not a beauty, but

her person is very genteel and pleasing; and O Sir! if you did but know her heart, how full of goodness it is, of knowledge, of accomplishments, I do believe you would fall in love with her, and make her the happiest wife in the world.

WHAT a match-making huffy you are, said the Major laughing, but you do not seem to remember I am old enough to be Miss Vincent's father.

No such thing Sir, replied Rosina, she is nine and twenty and you are nine and forty, that is all the difference; and it is such a pity she should be obliged to get her living, when she might make both you and herself so happy.

WHEN the Major retired for the evening, on Mrs. Wellon's attending, according to custom, to ask if all was to his satisfaction, he told her the conversation Rosina had started about Davison, and the result. Is she  
not

not a liberal a noble girl, said he, and is it not terrible that all my fortune cannot render her what I wish her? O Wellon! she will not be the first in the family, whose peace has been the victim of hopeless love.

I WOULD, however, said Mrs. Wellon, with all submission, Sir, to your better judgment, try the efficacy of the measure she recommends.

I INTEND to think of it, said the Major.

THE next day when the desert was brought in, and all the servants, for Mrs. Wellon was not considered as such, withdrawn, I have a proposal to make to you, Davison, and you, Jemima, said the Major. Next Tuesday shall be your wedding day, and in order to keep it private, for I should not like to make a bustle in Bath, Rosina and Mrs. Wellon shall make a little tour to view Stone House, and Miss Vincent shall be the bridemaid.

DAVISON



DAVISON looked his approbation, Mrs. Wellon smiled, Miss Vincent followed Mrs. Wellon's example, but the two young Ladies lifted not up their eyes.

YOU have I suppose, Rosina, said the Major, read the history of that British curiosity Stone House; or shall I buy the book for you on this occasion? Rosina told him he would much oblige her by the purchase, and no farther mention was made of either the wedding or the journey.

ON the following Tuesday, nevertheless, Rosina and Mrs. Wellon set off for Salisbury, and Major Jones, though he had put himself to the expence of a special licence, gave Jemima to Davison with his own hand, at the Abbey Church; and before Rosina's return had invested them with a fortune to their highest raised hopes and wishes. And Miss Vincent had a handsome present upon the occasion.

I WILL



I WILL now, said the Major, the day after Rosina came back, give this new-made benedict to you, my child, for your brother; and for my sake, intreat a brotherly affection for you may subsist in his heart; the sisterly, added he cheerfully, will succeed of course. — But pray, Miss Vincent, what did Mrs. Hillman say to my modest request which robbed her of your agreeable company? — She said, Sir, replied Miss Vincent, that in return for numberless obligations you had conferred upon her, and to which she was indebted for her whole provision, it was the first opportunity she had ever been so happy as to have, in her life, of shewing her gratitude; and that the second teacher should fill my place so long as you wished to retain me in the service of your family.

ROSINA, replied the Major, has formed a scheme, but I will leave her to communicate it herself, never to part with you more. She is very good, said Miss Vincent.

GOOD,

GOOD! replied Rosina, good to myself, if you please, and to those I love best; for I do not believe a more worthy, or a more amiable, or a more agreeable woman lives, and if I had a thousand voices, I would give them all to obtain you for my aunt. This folly created a general laugh, and music being called for by the Major, all conversation was soon at an end.

MISS VINCENT had a delicate chamber voice, and an elegant finger on the lute; the Major presented her the songs he was desirous she should perform, and she never failed to compliment him with an early acquisition of them; and now, for the third time in his life, finding Rosina behaved to Davison with tranquil affection, and that he beheld her with fraternal admiration, he pronounced himself perfectly happy.

BUT as a state of perfect happiness is not the state of mortality, he was thrown into the utmost confusion, with his children  
around

around him on the south parade, by the audible whisper of "There they are, a pretty sentimental group; the brother husband, sister wife, and the real and legal father in one, just as the lampoon describes them".

My dear Davison, said the Major, be not disturbed, this arrow comes from Levet, it is aimed at our peace by the hand of an affassin, but it will be our own fault if it wound; I will drag him into the light with all his turpitude on his head, and compel him, like Balaam of old, to bless when he came forth to curse.

Aye, my dear Sir, cried Davison, is this the language of contempt, the language of composure; I am tortured by the apparent mortification of Jemima; but I tremble for your health, me he cannot hurt. Rosina, what is become of your lovely complexion; has this insult chased it away?

LET us go home, said Rosina, all eyes  
are

are upon us; but that innocence should shrink whilst iniquity is triumphant, to me is a most inexplicable circumstance.

HOME they went, and Mrs. Wellon was despatched to buy the lampoon; she brought it with an answer to it, just published, they told her. The lampoon was not destitute of wit, but the answer beat it all to pieces; exposed the malice, the improbability of the satire; and concluded with a panegyrick on the Major and his family, that restored them to harmony.

I WILL know the author of this generous production, cried the Major, this advocate, this volunteer and liberal advocate of the injured and the innocent; so, Wellon, you must make a second visit to the bookseller, and intreat he will favour you with the gentleman's address; and do you hear, my good and valuable woman, if he is not too far off, or from other accidents not to be met with, bring him with you.

MRS.

MRS. WELLON, who delighted in obliging, soon traced the author to his lodging, who happened to be a young clergyman; and, obeying her master's commands to their strictest letter, returned with him to the company.

MISS VINCENT was thrown into great confusion by the rencounter, as it happened to be a young fellow bred to the church, to whom she was engaged, was a stranger to her being at Bath, and who knew Major Jones' character from Mrs. Hillman.— In half an hour explanations took place, they were both fortuneless, yet both inviolably attached to each other, and as this was the very walk in which the Major could be best serviceable to them, he appointed Mr. Jewel to his Welch living, and insisted upon their being speedily married, and taking possession thereof; for that to detain Miss Vincent, as they were situated, was the next thing, said he, to parting man and wife.

THE

THE Major, however, found himself, before he went to bed, much indisposed; he was so far better the next morning that he held up long enough to see Miss Vincent married, who, together with her happy husband, left Bath with a most grateful heart; when, soon afterwards, his gout becoming violent and alarming, his children and Mrs. Wellon were thrown into unspeakable distress.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.